

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

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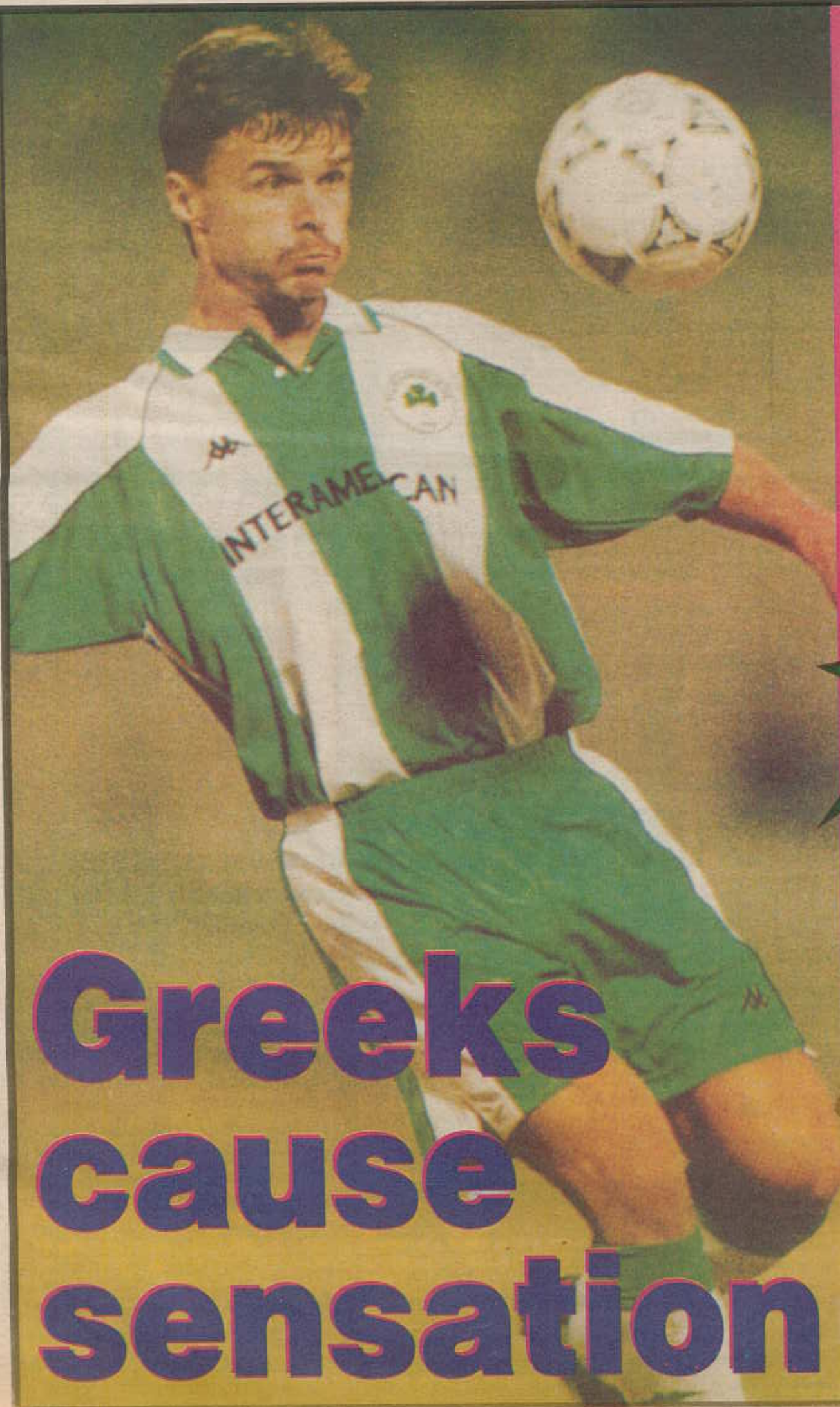
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Greeks cause sensation

**SPECIAL
SERIES:
The History
of Soccer**

COLOUR POSTERS

Sydney United's
Robert Enes
&
AC Milan's
Franco Baresi

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 29

Tables up to Round 29 played on Easter Saturday. Round 30 (Easter Monday) results not available when ABSW went to press.

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	53	29	15	8	6	51	31
Melbourne Knights	50	29	14	8	7	38	21
UTS Olympic	50	29	14	8	7	48	36
Brisbane Strikers	48	29	14	6	9	48	33
Adelaide City	47	29	13	8	8	55	35
Sydney United	47	29	12	11	6	41	29
West Adelaide	47	29	14	5	10	41	35
South Melbourne	40	29	12	4	13	46	50
Morwell Falcons	34	29	9	7	13	33	56
Canberra Cosmos	29	29	6	11	12	44	54
Wollongong City	17	29	4	5	20	26	57
Newcastle Breakers	17	29	4	5	20	33	67

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	15	9	4	2	32	18
Melbourne Knights	14	8	3	3	15	6
UTS Olympic	14	9	4	1	25	11
Brisbane Strikers	14	10	3	1	41	12
Adelaide City	15	8	4	3	33	12
Sydney United	14	8	2	4	26	13
West Adelaide	15	10	1	4	22	14
South Melbourne	15	8	3	4	30	22
Morwell Falcons	15	6	4	5	19	22
Canberra Cosmos	15	4	7	4	24	20
Wollongong City	14	3	3	8	15	22
Newcastle Breakers	15	3	5	7	23	32

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Marconi Fairfield	14	6	4	4	19	13
Melbourne Knights	15	6	5	4	23	15
UTS Olympic	15	5	4	6	23	25
Brisbane Strikers	15	4	3	8	7	21
Adelaide City	14	5	4	5	22	23
Sydney United	15	4	9	2	15	16
West Adelaide	14	4	4	6	19	21
South Melbourne	14	4	1	9	16	28
Morwell Falcons	14	3	3	8	14	34
Canberra Cosmos	14	2	4	8	20	34
Wollongong City	15	1	2	12	11	35
Newcastle Breakers	14	1	0	13	10	35

W WIN 3 Points - D DRAW 1 Points - L LOSS 0

RESULTS

CANBERRA COSMOS	0
WEST ADELAIDE	1
(Keramidas 56)	
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2
(Panopoulos 12, Curcija 72)	
UTS OLYMPIC	1
(Taliadoros 14)	
ADELAIDE CITY	0
BRISBANE STRIKERS	0

WOLLONGONG CITY	0
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	0
SYDNEY UNITED	2
(Milicic 17, Moric 37)	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	4
(D. Cervinski 9, Kutlesovski 55, Marth 85, T. Pondeljak 87)	
MORWELL FALCONS	1
(Masi 73)	
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	0

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 - South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
ROUND 29 BEST: Sydney United v Melbourne Knights 4,918 TOTAL ROUND 29: 18,801
SEASON TOTAL: 741,326. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,260

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	96129	15	6408
UTS Olympic	77584	14	5541
Brisbane	70988	14	5070
Marconi	73286	15	4885
Melb Knights	63184	14	4513
West Ad	67598	15	4506
Syd Utd	59125	14	4223
Ad City	63327	15	4221
Newcastle	52710	15	3514
Wollongong	42504	14	3036
Canberra	43199	15	2879
Morwell	41411	15	2760

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
Marconi	11866 v UTS Olympic	R20
UTS Olympic	11145 v Marconi	R9
West Ad	10870 v Ad City	R28
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Syd Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
Brisbane	8516 v Morwell	R28
Melb Knights	7140 v Souths	R23
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

28	Damien Mori	(Adelaide City)
18	Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
16	Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
14	Jim Tsekinis	(West Adelaide)
12	Andy Harper	(Marconi)
12	Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
11	Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
11	Francis Awaritofe	(Marconi Fairfield)
10	Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
10	Vaughan Coveny	(South Melbourne)

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Johnnie Walker
COACH OF THE MONTH



Perin shows great humility

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Johnny Perin (below), Adelaide City's coach and former Australian international midfielder, was last week declared the sixth worthy winner of the 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' award.



Perin who this season has had the most unenviable task of taking over the reins of the 'Black and Whites' from living legend Zoran Matic, after an early struggle at the beginning of the season has steered Adelaide City back on track with a late charge for the Top Six Series.

"Of course it's an honour to win this award.

"But let's face it, at Adelaide City individual awards mean little to us, as anything anyone of us wins, belongs to the entire team.

"Adelaide City has many people behind the scenes, including important people such as my very loyal assistant coach Johnny Nyskohus and efficient team manager John Besir.

"This award belongs to all of them, not just me," stressed Perin.

Being his first season in charge of the 'Black and Whites' in the Ericsson League, Perin went on to add: "We are starting to come good at the right end of the season. I feel we are much stronger at this end than earlier.

"With just three rounds left we have the current League champions Melbourne Knights this week at home. Morwell Falcons away then finish up with Sydney United at home.

"I believe we are going to be there at the end if nothing unusual goes wrong for us such as injuries or suspensions," ended the former international midfielder-warrior.

The Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month award is chosen on the following criteria:

1. Team performance-the number of wins in that period.

2. Quality of opposition-beating a top side as opposed to beating the bottom of the table.

3. Home and Away-winning away from home as opposed to winning at home.

The 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Month' is chosen after each four (4) consecutive Ericsson League matches.

The selection panel is:

Eddie Thomson: Australia's national coach.

Jimmy Selby: Soccer Australia's Coaching and Development Officer.

Zoran Matic: Former Adelaide City long-serving champion coach.

Perin now joins the illustrious list of previous four-weekly winners as follows:

Harry Bingham (Morwell Falcons), David Ratcliffe - twice-(UTS Olympic), Michael Lyons (Canberra Cosmos) and Bruce Stowell (Brisbane Strikers).

At the end of this season, all coaches in the Ericsson League will cast a vote on the 1995-96 'Johnnie Walker Coach Of The Year' who will be named at the Awards Night to be held this season in Melbourne on Tuesday May 21.

This most prestigious Award was taken out last season by Zoran Matic.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Collingwood, which is due to enter next season's expanded Ericsson Cup competition, was last week heavily rumoured to be intent on securing the services of Australian coaching legend, Zoran Matic.

The tough-taskmaster Matic, who coached Adelaide City for 10 consecutive seasons, winning a stack of national Championships, Cups and various trophies for the 'Black and Whites', was caught completely unaware by the rumours running rife last week.

The man who became a sporting legend within the whole state of South Australia, was uncharacteristically flattered by the latest buzz.

The always stern Matic, does not easily suffer fools or foolish talk.

When contacted late last night at his West Lakes home, Matic could only answer, "I can most honestly state to you that no one from Collingwood or anywhere else, has approached me in any way.

"I've heard some of this talk lately myself, which seems to be emanating from Victoria.

"But I can tell you that I have not been approached at all."

When we bluntly asked the master coach would he be interested in such a proposition if put to him by



Zoran Matic: Coaching ambition still there.

the AFL-backed Club, Matic was somewhat laconic and

deliberated in answering.

"I don't really know.

"I have not given it a serious thought at all.

"Why should I?

"I have not even been approached by anyone from Melbourne.

"However it would be difficult for me to take up such a position should it ever eventuate, if at all.

"I can not picture myself moving away from Adelaide.

"I have all my family here, my friends, my business.

"Adelaide has been my only home since coming to Australia back in the 70s.

"I even feel that I was actually born in Adelaide.

"I feel very secure here.

"Adelaide has given to me, and my family, everything.

"No, I cannot even begin to imagine me ever leaving South Australia.

"After 10 years with Adelaide City it seems that it has been enough and now its time to give others a go.

"It has even been mentioned to me to make a comeback one day with Adelaide City.

"Going to Melbourne or anywhere else for that matter, and to start all over again from scratch, would be most difficult and maybe

statistics can tell you that going back is never a good idea in anything," ended Matic.

At the end of last season, neighbouring club West Adelaide was rumoured and believed to have approached Matic to take over the 'Sharks' once Raul Blanco's contract expired.

The high-profile, but always humble Matic then commented, "Although I was honoured, that was something most unlikely to ever happen.

"West Adelaide have been traditional rivals to Adelaide City for so long and always will be.

"So that was another situation that also was always going to be most unlikely.

"Anyhow they now have Adrian Santrac to takeover from Raul, and he was a great Adelaide City soldier.

"Having said all this however, I still feel young enough not to have no coaching desires left in me.

"Yes, sure I would like to coach again one day."

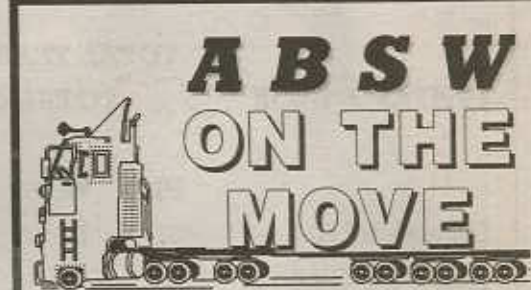
The durable Matic over the years moulded and mastered many super-class players such as internationals Sergio Melta (who played in last season's Grand Final aged 36), steely midfielder Joey Mullen, magical midfielder Charlie Villani, and current Australian World Cup centre-back, Alex Tobin plus the League's mercurial goal-ace and all-time record scorer, Damian Mori.

even impracticable.

"No, I don't think so.

"Even history and

Mori.



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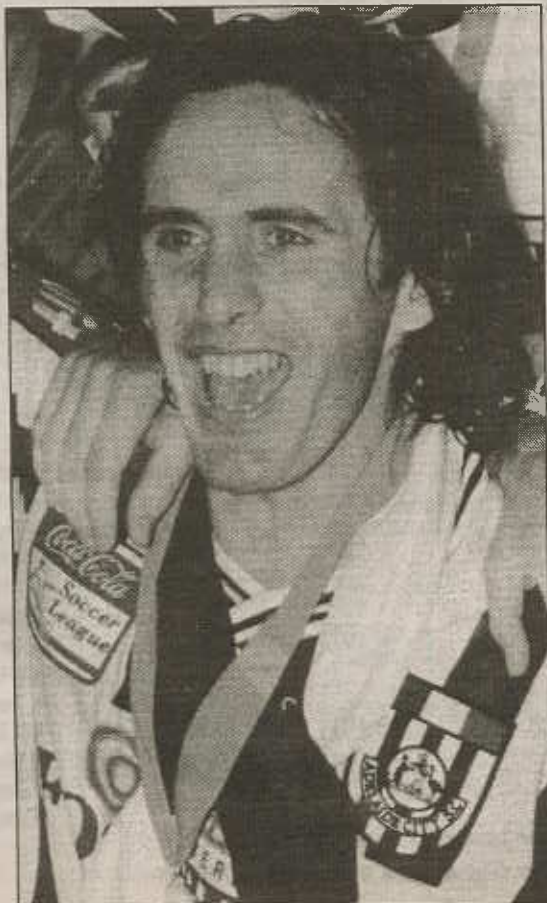
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Sergio Melta: Super class international developed by Zoran Matic.

STRIKING FORM EQUALS

How the goalscoring aces have



Damian Mori: Top scorer and part of hottest duo with Hassell.

BY GREG BLAKE

Sure, we all know that the Extended 33-game Ericsson Cup home and away schedule will help set new goalscoring records, many of which may never be broken.

But that cannot detract from what is probably already one of the most breathtaking goalscoring seasons in the competition's 20 season history.

Old-timers won't have it, but the numbers say that goalscoring in the league is on the up.

The likes of Dixie Deans, John Kosmina, Gary Cole, Doug Brown and a younger Frank Farina might have individually dominated the goal charts of certain eras but rarely has a glut of striking talent hit the league on one wave.

Keep in mind that we've had 30-game and 28-game league seasons before, but even in those years the records haven't tumbled to the extent we've witnessed in 1995/96.

And most of them have fallen well inside the 33-week distance.

At no other time in league history have five players broken individual club single-season goalscoring records as has occurred this year.

Adelaide City's Damian Mori is

having a dare to dream season which has already been well documented for the club record tally, a world record strike and now an all-time league record — set, by the way, inside a more than respectable 26 games — and the promise of more to come.

The distinct possibility of Mori breaking the previously unthinkable 30 goal milestone is on the cards.

Will we ever see the like of this again?

Obviously Mori stands alone this season, having scored a league high representing nearly 50 percent of his team's goals in the competition's number-one ranked attack.

What underscores Mori's astounding summer is the fact that his 28 goals in the 28 rounds to March 31 is a season total not yet exceeded by any club goalscoring partnership in league and cup matches combined to the same point.

Brisbane's Frank Farina and Rod Brown had combined for 28 league goals to March 31, as had UTS Olympic pair Kris Trajanovski and Normie Tome in league and cup.

Discussing the league's top partnerships, even in the days of a divided 24-team league there were never

so many prolific goalscoring duos on stage at a single time.

After just 28 rounds and the Johnnie Walker Cup series, six of the league's 12 clubs can boast goal getting tandem acts to have broken the 20 goal barrier.

The individual records started tumbling in March, when UTS Olympic's Kris Trajanovski did enough to edge past Ericsson Cup legend Marshall Soper's old mark.

Farina has since followed suit in Brisbane and as at March 31 West Adelaide's Jim Tsekiniis needed just one more goal to beat Jose Iriate's old club best for the Sharks.

In these exclusive ABSW charts we've chronicled the 1995/96 form of these club and league record-breakers, as much as a testimony to this one memorable season as for the purpose of making unfair comparisons of the individual players.

We've included Soccerroo skipper and Canberra Cosmos veteran Paul Wade on the lists for two reasons, despite his status as a non-recognised goalscorer and his non-appearance in the lofty upper reaches of the star-studded goalscoring charts of 1995/96.

THE SUMMER'S HOTTEST TOP GUNS

How the numbers shape up

PLAYER & CLUB	TOTAL TEAM RECORD AND					TOTAL PLAYER RECORD		
	TOTAL GOALS FOR					(GAMES/GOALS)		
	PLD	W	D	L	GLS	LEAGUE	CUP	TOTAL
Damian Mori (Adelaide City)	31	15	7	9	59	28 (28)	3 (0)	31 (28)
Kris Trajanovski (UTS Olympic)	31	15	8	8	53	27 (18)	3 (2)	30 (20)
Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)	30	14	6	10	49	24 (16)	1 (0)	25 (16)
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	33	15	4	14	57	23 (10)	5 (6)	28 (16)
Jim Tsekiniis (West Adelaide)	30	13	6	11	41	28 (14)	2 (0)	30 (14)
Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)	31	7	12	12	47	25 (11)	2 (0)	27 (11)

— appearances include matches when player has come off the bench as a substitute

— club and individual games played record refers to all 1995/96 Ericsson Cup league games and Johnnie Walker Cup games

GOALS ANALYSIS

PLAYER	GLS PER GAME PLAYED	% OF TOTAL TEAM GLS	NO. OF GAMES SCORED IN	MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES SCORED	NOT
Damian Mori (Adelaide City)	0.903	47.5	17	5	5
Kris Trajanovski (UTS Olympic)	0.645	37.7	14	4	5
Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)	0.533	32.7	10	3	8
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	0.571	28.1	11	4	7
Jim Tsekiniis (West Adelaide)	0.467	34.1	12	3	4
Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)	0.407	24.4	7	2	8

GOALSCORING RUNS

PLAYER	BEST GOALSCORING RUN (DATES)	TEAM RECORD	
		IN THAT PERIOD	FOR REST OF SEASON
Damian Mori (Adelaide City)	15 goals in 10 games (7/2 to 31/3)	7-3-0 85.0%	8-4-9 47.6%
Kris Trajanovski (UTS Olympic)	11 goals in 9 games (30/12 to 25/2)	6-0-3 66.7%	8-8-5 57.1%
Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)	7 goals in 9 games (5/11 to 23/12)*	7-0-2 77.8%	6-6-8 45.4%
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	14 goals in 15 games (14/1 to 27/3)**	11-0-4 73.3%	4-4-9 35.3%
Jim Tsekiniis (West Adelaide)	8 goals in 7 games (25/2 to 27/3)	4-1-2 64.3%	9-5-8 52.3%
Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)	8 goals in 9 games (12/11 to 26/12)	5-2-2 66.7%	2-9-10 31.0%

*Farina missed two games during this period, making his actual record 7 goals in 7 games

**Coveny missed three games during this period, making his actual record 14 goals in 12 games

SMASHING SUCCESS

shaped a record-breaking season

For starters, Wade clearly defines the top-gun, top form theory, with the figures as charted showing any in-form goalscorer can transform a side when hot.

Like each of the scoring stars of the summer we've charted here, Wade's form has directly mirrored the form of his club team.

If nothing else, the numbers we've come up with show that when a striker is hot, his team thrives, and when the streak ends the form of the side often falters.

Each of the six players we've put through the analysis have hit hot streaks, during which time their club has had improved results by often considerable margins.

During Wade's hot streak of eight goals in nine starts during November and December his Canberra team won five of seven games.

The Cosmos have recorded only two other victories before or since. And in what is Wade's best-ever season around the target zone the 12-season Ericsson Cup stalwart is also one of the record five players at different clubs to have carded a season best for a team in a single season, albeit with the newest

league franchise.

South Melbourne's flying sheep farmer' Vaughan Coveny is also charted, with his charmed Johnnie Walker Cup run earning him a place in the league's best five with a 16 goal total in league and cup games.

His hot streak started in that cup run and his dramatically improved second half to the campaign has seen a similar, albeit ill-fated rise by the Blues.

Not charted are top side Marconi's deadly duo of Francis Awaritefe and Andy Harper who, despite forming one of the best partnerships in the league this season, have virtually gone neck and neck with individual tallies, neither of which is enough to elevate them into the elite top five.

However, they do get recognised as one of the season's dynamic duos and can boast one record the others cannot, in what could be an omen for the club in the coming finals campaign.

Marconi has not been beaten in a league game this season when either Awaritefe or Harper has scored, although the Stallions did lose a quarter final cup game despite Awaritefe getting on the scoresheet.

Remarkably, despite the

pair's formidable form this summer they have only scored in the same game a mere four times, with Marconi 9-1-1 (W-D-L) in Awaritefe's 11 goalscoring matches and Harper 8-2-0 in his ten successful outings.

In contrast the Stallions are 2-6-6 in games when both players were shut out by opponents.

for the record, Mori's current 40 goal partnership with Brad Hassell is also an all-time league best.

These exclusive ABSW charts show a similar trend for all the league's top guns, with their goalscoring form an accurate guide to the form of their respective clubs.

In combined totals our marked half dozen are (50-10-11) in games in which they have scored and a mere (29-32-54) in games when they've drawn a blank.

It could be argued that these players are expected to finish off the work of teammates and that their wasted chances could similarly precipitate a downturn in club form.

What cannot be dismissed is the fact that we've been treated to some rare goalscoring highlights this year, and that's something we should just sit back and enjoy.

PUT IT THERE, PARTNER

The league's hottest double acts of the summer

PARTNERSHIP & CLUB	INDIVIDUAL GOALS (LEAGUE AND CUP)	PARTNERSHIP TOTALS
Damian Mori and Brad Hassell (Adelaide City)	Mori Hassell (28 + 0) (10 + 2)	40
Kris Trajanovski and Norm Tome (UTS Olympic)	Trajanovski Tome (18 + 2) (8 + 0)	28
Frank Farina and Rod Brown (Brisbane Strikers)	Farina Brown (16 + 0) (12 + 0)	28
Vaughan Coveny and Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)	Coveny Trimboli (10 + 6) (7 + 2)	25
Francis Awaritefe and Andy Harper (Marconi Fairfield)	Awaritefe Harper (11 + 2) (12 + 0)	25
Jim Tsekini and Pablo Cardozo (West Adelaide)	Tsekini Cardozo (14 + 0) (7 + 0)	21

All statistical references include all Ericsson Cup league games up to and including all matches played on Sunday, March 31, 1996.

SEQUENCES OF TOP 6 PLAYERS

PLAYER & CLUB	CLUB RECORD WHEN PLAYER PLAYS			CLUB RECORD WHEN PLAYER MISSING			CLUB RECORD WHEN PLAYER SCORES			CLUB RECORD WHEN PLAYER FAILS TO SCORE		
	W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L
Damian Mori (Adelaide City)	15	7	9	0	0	0	12	3	2	3	4	7
Kris Trajanovski (UTS Olympic)	14	8	8	1	0	0	10	2	2	5	6	6
Frank Farina (Brisbane Strikers)	13	4	8	1	2	2	9	0	1	5	6	9
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	13	4	11	2	0	3	8	0	3	7	4	11
Jim Tsekini (West Adelaide)	13	6	11	0	0	0	7	3	2	6	3	9
Paul Wade (Canberra Cosmos)	7	10	10	0	2	2	4	2	1	3	9	12

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Brad Hassell: Has contributed to Adelaide City's goals record with 12 so far. Partner in dynamic duo with Mori.

No gain from Super League fiasco

Dear Sir,

While both Rugby Union and AFL have benefited from the fallout from Super League other than some much needed ground improvements in Newcastle, soccer has gained nothing of significance. This is despite the presence of the Wran Hill Negus "juggernaut" as well as a streamlined all new image Ericsson Cup.

The Brisbane Strikers are perfectly placed to capitalise on Super League. Yet despite being the best ever Brisbane based NSL club both on and off the field they are for the most part ignored by the Brisbane and S.E. Queensland public. Despite all sorts of incentives and promotions crowds have risen from a woeful 2000 + average last season to a miserable 4000+ average this season at their new "deluxe" home ground. If this is the best the Strikers can attract in near perfect circumstances then the road ahead is not going to be easy.

Whatever excuses, the unfortunate facts of life are that once again, in no uncertain terms, mainstream Australia has shown they have little or no interest in soccer.

Another OZ soccer myth that refuses to lie down is that somehow the vast numbers of amateur and junior players as well as their families (especially in NSW and QLD) are a major untapped support base for the A League, if only! This is despite the fact proven over many years that the vast majority of these players and their families have nothing more than a strictly recreational interest in soccer. Worse still many couldn't even be bothered to watch top class soccer or free to air TV. Need I say anymore.

There is one other significant group of so called soccer fans in OZ who consistently adopt a totally unreasonable attitude towards OZ soccer. They demand that OZ soccer be perfect in every aspect. While perfection in any endeavour is highly desirable it is rarely if ever achieved.

The failure of OZ soccer to capitalise in any meaningful way on the Super League fiasco only serves to highlight what a difficult environment Australia is for soccer. It also makes the successes OZ soccer has had, especially with the development of quality local players, even more laudable, giving us few real supporters hope for the future.

I have always believed that soccer in Australia only has a niche market, nothing I see has changed my mind.

Rugby Union only has a niche market in Australia yet it has prospered like never before over the last decade. I cannot see why OZ soccer cannot prosper like Rugby Union providing the brains trust at S.A. look after the games "real" supporters while trying at the same time to broaden the games supporter base, difficult as this task may be.

Instead of spending their time making extravagant speeches promising things they CANNOT deliver Messrs Hill and Negus would be better advised to put their feet firmly on the ground and get on with the job of improving the game in a realistic manner.

R Melor,
Bondi. NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Due to the ever-increasing volume of Letters to the Editor, only correspondence of less than 400 words will be considered for publication.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Top sixteen in '74 - where now?

Dear Sir,

I have always enjoyed Micky Brock's page — "a good read" — as he would say. But I think Micky has been heading the ball too much and has suffered some cerebral damage, if his glowing endorsement of National coach Thomson is any indication (ABSW 2.4.96).

Micky says "Thomson is the only man for the job," and accuses "some fans" of being fickle after a "couple of reverse results."

I know he means well — but don't ignore the facts. Today we have full-time coaches on the national scene. We have the equivalent of 10 full teams playing in professional leagues around the world.

Great talent to call on! But still our coach cannot put a combination on the field to score a goal in five outings away from home.

Maybe if he tried playing them in their national positions?

But did not Australia make the finals once — 22 years ago. We had to be champions of Asia to make the final 16.

Now we will have to be the equivalent of fourth in Asia to make the final 32. And still we struggle with a team of stars which lack the magic ingredient that carried a team of part-timers through to the 1974 World Cup.

What was the magic ingredient which inspired the coal-miner, salesman, electricians and Sunday tradesman to hold East Germany 0-2, West Germany (the ultimate World Cup Winners) 0-3 and Chile 0-0?

Maybe it was the coach, Rale Rasic, who had to select a team without the benefit of a National League and 10 teams of

professionals overseas. He had to borrow a movie projector, photocopier, overhead projector, white board and slide projector from the company I worked for because the ASF at the time did not want to meet the cost of hiring the gear.

The 1974 Socceroos (or should it be Amateuroos?) scored 21 goals in the eliminations and conceded 10. In the warm-up games against Indonesia, Israel, St Gallen, Young Boys of Berne and Neuchatel Xamax they put away 10 nice goals and conceded four.

Not a bad result, but what did the ASF at that time do? They ignored the team on its return. Western Suburbs Soccer club came to the rescue months later with a presentation evening for local players and the coach?

He was ignored probably because he had the audacity to get up at the Opera House in 1972 where that terrible Labor Party was launching its campaign and say, "any political party that plans to put sport, all sport, on a proper footing with the establishment of an Institute of Sport has my support."

We know now that sport benefited from the Labor win, but alas, the soccer national coach was replaced by a series of aspirants who have failed to duplicate the results of 1974.

Micky, you ask, "who would, or even could, be brought in to do a better job than Thomson?"

Do I really have to spell the answer out for you?

George Green,
Alstonville.

Ron Atkinson inspirational playing leader

Dear Sir,

With reference to your article "Profile" by Stuart Jones 2.4.96 in particular regarding Ron Atkinson.

Ron "The Tank" Atkinson was captain of Oxford United during the "Sixties" and was known in soccer circles not only as a great servant to the club but also as a good ambassador of soccer.

He captained Oxford (formerly Headington United) from the Southern League to the "old" Second Division. The team had a reputation as "Giant Killers" and Ron led the "U's" to a fifth round win in the FA Cup against the then great Preston North End. United lost the quarter final to one of the best sides in England at that time, Blackburn Rovers.

I am pleased to say that I saw most of Ron's games when he played for Oxford.

Umar Salah,
(An Oxford Utd fan since 1956)



Ron Atkinson: Captained Oxford (formerly Headington) United in 1960s.

Victorian Premier Division

SPRINGVALE CITY 0 GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 2

BY JOHN RIGAS

In their rescheduled round eight fixture Green Gully Cavaliers had to fend off a youthful Springvale City Vales outfit who looked dangerous in the first 25 minutes at Ross Reserve on Thursday night.

Green Gully opened the scoring in the 35th minute when a cross from striker Daniel Genovesi was side footed home by skilful midfielder Zlate Makovski.

The Cavaliers were in control for the rest of the night and it came as no surprise when they increased their lead in the 75th when Tony Neceski found the back of the net.

Springvale coach Gus Mcleod mentioned after the game that Green Gully deserved their win.

Green Gully have signed 20 year old player Martin Lynch from Scotland to strengthen their squad.

Cavs coach Chris Taylor said that they have gone on reputation to sign Lynch.

VALES: Dastey, Vargas, Razzi (Rep), Nolan, De La Plaza, Lettieri, D. Grella, Calomino, Rona, Lancaster, Spina (Piemonte).

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri, Cimino, Chetcuti, Crodden, Stojcevski, Neceski, Markovski (Ketsakidis), Genovesi (Maglovski), Suric, AN Other.

VOTES: 3-Suric (Cavaliers), 2-Neceski (Cavaliers), 1-Dastey (Vales).

Jason Dastey:
In goal for
Springvale City.



National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION

LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP

ROUND 29

NSW ITC.....1	QAS.....3
ACT Academy.....4	St George.....0
Wollongong City.....0	Marconi Fairfield.....3
Parramatta Eagles.....2	UTS Olympic.....6
Blacktown City.....0	Newcastle Breakers.....3
Sydney United.....2	AIS.....1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Marconi Fairfield	29	21	2	6	87	20	65
Sydney United	29	19	2	8	65	39	59
AIS	28	18	2	8	81	39	56
UTS Olympic	29	15	6	8	64	36	51
ACT Academy	28	15	4	9	55	50	49
Wollongong City	28	14	4	10	64	52	46
Qld Acad of Sport	27	14	3	10	69	39	45
Parramatta Eagles	29	9	8	12	47	64	35
Newcastle Breaker	29	10	3	16	41	54	33
Blacktown City	27	6	5	16	40	87	23
St George	26	3	2	21	22	85	11
NSW ITC	27	3	1	23	25	95	10

STAR PROFILE

Adam Ciantar

UTS OLYMPIC



Date of Birth: March 15, 1972
Birthplace: Sydney
Previous Clubs: St George, Parramatta Eagles
Position: Defender
Nickname: 'Adz'
Marital Status: Single
Occupation: Fulltime player
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Work-rate and consistency
Most Difficult Opponent: Damlan Mori
Most Impressive Local Player: All my UTS Olympic teammates
Favourite Overseas Player: Paolo Maldini (Italy)
Favourite Overseas Club: AC Milan
Euro '96 tip: Spain
Qualities that make a Good Coach: Must have excellent communication skills with all his players
Honours: NSW Under 13s, 14s, 15s and 18s plus Senior NSW 1995 squad
Ambitions For 1996: to win the Ericsson Cup with Sydney Olympic
Ambitions After Retiring: To get involved in coaching
Most Memorable Moment: Winning the NSL Cup with Melita Eagles in 1993.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Golf, Tennis.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Maradona's second goal against England in the 1986 Mexico World Cup Finals
Favourite Food: All Italian.
Favourite Drink: Scotch and Coke
Car You Drive: BMW 318 i.
Favourite TV Show: Jerry Seinfeld and X-Files
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: Neighbours
Favourite Movie: The Crow
Favourite Actor/Actress: Brad Pitt and Demi Moore
Preferred Music: Most types
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Metal
Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld
Pet Hates: Bad referees
Special Advice To Young Players: Work hard and follow your dreams
Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Cindy Crawford

By JOHN ECONOMOS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WITH RICHARD KREIDER

Glory triumph over Singapore visitors

Western Australia's future Ericsson Cup side Perth Glory, notched up it's first victory against international opposition last Saturday, a 4-1 win over Singapore's S-League newcomers Woodlands.

Glory have now had eight outings, seven against local clubs and a friendly with J-League side Cerezo Osaka who are the only side to beat the prospective National League tyros.

The Woodlands team, coached by ex-Chelsea star Steve Wicks, and who featured tall former Notts County defender Darren Davis and former Melbourne Knights midfielder Joe Caleta, gave the Glory a solid workout and one that pleased coach Glory Marocchi, since his next opponents are likely to be the Italian Serie A giants Sampdoria at the end of May.

But it was the visitors who put the first score on the board, that came in the opening seconds by way of a gift throw-in from Paul Strudwick who picked out Ervin Boban instead of his goalkeeper.

The tall striker could not believe his luck as he gleefully swooped on the ball and slipped it past Tom Maras. But their euphoria only lasted six minutes, when promising youngster James Afkos sent over the perfect right-side centre to midfielder Paul McVittie, who climbed high and headed home his first goal for his new club.



Steve Bourne: Scored Glory's third goal in the 53rd.

It was a fiery encounter, one that needed to be well marshalled, and referee Andy Gorton did just that in preventing the game from boiling over.

The home side took the lead in the 44th minute with a long range missile from Gareth Naven.

Woodlands responded by coming out after the break with a new goalie Samsardi Bin Saat, who as it turned out, went on to make many breathtaking

saves, thus averting a far heavier loss for his side.

He was blameless for Glory's third goal from Steve Bourne in the 53rd minute, and a Joe Vaz striker five minutes from the end, underlined the home side's dominance of the second-half period.

It was a loss that put a blemish on Woodlands' week in WA, having earlier drawn 1-1 with Stirling Macedonia and 2-2 with Floreat Athena.



Gareth Naven: Gave Glory the lead a minute before half time.



Joe Caleta: Former Melbourne Knights star now playing in Singapore League.

WA SOCCER LOSES A FRIEND

Australian sport saw the demise of one of its oldest sponsored competitions last week, following the announcement from the D'Orsogna Brothers smallgoods company that they are ending their involvement with soccer — namely The D'Orsogna Cup.

The knockout cup has been contested since the formation of the Soccer Federation of WA in 1960. Thirteen clubs have had the honour of winning this popular competition, the most successful being East Fremantle Tricolore with eight wins followed by Perth Azzurri with seven.

Both Tricolore and Azzurri, together with Balcatta Etna joined forces in 1988, to become Perth Italia.

Perth were winners in 1990 and '93.

"It's a sad day for WA soccer to see such a prestigious trophy go" said Soccer Administration of WA president Lou Ricci, who was also president of Tricolore for 16 years and instrumental in the organising of the smallgoods firm to become a sponsor.

"The D'Orsogna management and board changed recently and regrettably with them went the cup.

"It's certainly disappointing, especially in our centenary year.

"But D'Orsogna have been great, they were there when soccer needed someone.

"They won't be forgotten," he concluded.

The competition will now be called The Soccer West Coast Cup until a sponsor is found.

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Markovski's absence can be covered

National league premiers Melbourne Knights face the prospect of being without Socceroo striker John Markovski for the rest of the season.

Knights' coach, Ian Dobson, said last week Markovski had broken down again with a foot injury at training and was doubtful for the upcoming finals.

Markovski has had a disastrous season and has contributed only a handful of goals since crossing from Morwell Falcons last year.

Dobson is unperturbed, though, and believes Adrian Cervinski and Ollie Pondeljak will be handy replacements in the lead-up to the finals.

Pondeljak is back in Australia after an unsuccessful bid to break into the Croatian first division while Cervinski has finished a 12-month ban for failing to take a drug test.

Dobson has been



delighted with Cervinski's two comeback games and said it was like having a new recruit around the club. "He's still hungry for success and is fresh."

"He set up one goal and could have scored twice himself with a bit of luck."

"He did an excellent job and lasted 85 minutes, which isn't a bad effort considering he hadn't played for so long."

Dobson said Cervinski and Pondeljak would also be vital squad members with the Knights due to lose up to four players, including Joe Spiteri, to the Australian under-23 team for its Olympic



John Markovski: Has had a disastrous season with injuries.

qualifying matches during the NSL finals next month.

Meanwhile, Socceroo

midfielder Danny Tiatto is due to return home from trialling in Holland and was available, along

with Vinko Buljubasic, for Saturday's important away fixture against Sydney United.

Fittock in Ericsson Cup at nineteen

BY JAI MCDERMOTT

Newcastle Breakers goalkeeper Adam Fittock must have wondered if he would play at all this season, but just recently he has been seeing plenty of football.



Just a squad member, the absence of regular keeper Craig Carter has meant the youngster has had a busy time of it in recent weeks.

While Carter has been serving a suspension for disciplinary indiscretions, Fittock has deputised with distinction. It has been a tough time for the Breakers of late, with injury and suspension coinciding with a hectic playing schedule, but Fittock is relishing the extra workload.

"I've had to wait a while to get a chance so while it's tough for Carts' I can just try to make the most of my opportunity."

At just 19, 'Fitto' is another of the young brigade which comprises most of the Breakers squad. Originally from the far north coast, the towering keeper played his early football with Goonellabah, and was part of a Lismore side which dominated junior football in the area.

Add to that four seasons in the NSW Country team and it's clear Fittock is no stranger to high quality football. However he says the jump to national League is a giant leap.

"Goonellabah has produced some really good players like Terry Greedy and Craig Foster but in the Ericsson Cup there are so many talented guys. You don't realise how big a step it is until you get there. I used to train hard back home and I thought I was pretty fit, but there's not much comparison with the Breakers and Ericsson Cup."

Fittock lives just minutes away from the ground and spends his days training with other young Breakers and coach John Kosmina.

"I sometimes pick up casual work during the day, mostly labouring work, but I still have heaps of time to do extra training which is great. I do weight training with Kossie and then train with the ball as well, with guys like Clacka (Clayton Zane) and Pete Ritchie. Goose (Former National League and New Zealand Keeper's Clint Gosling) helps the keepers' out as well so I'm learning all the time."

John Kosmina rates his young keeper highly and has been impressed with his form since coming in for Carter. After the recent clash with defending premiers the Melbourne Knights I asked him about Fittock, "He is a good prospect. Even though they (Knights) put four past him tonight he probably couldn't have saved any of them. Yeah, he gets through his work pretty well. He's been patient and now he's got his chance."

And so Fittock's learning curve continues. A national leaguer at just nineteen, he certainly has plenty of years ahead of him at the top level. A willingness to work, an admirable patience and maybe a dose of luck should see him succeed in the top company of the Ericsson Cup.

While Rugby League struggles to regain its feet, one group benefiting from the Superleague issue is the Newcastle Breakers. A deal to share Breakers Stadium with Super League club Hunter Mariners has seen some impressive ground upgrades for the Breakers home.

The ground already laid claim to providing a wonderful venue for the game but additional seating and changeroom facilities have been welcomed.

Irrespective of public opinion of the Super League-ARL fiasco and indeed the future of the Mariners, the Breakers willingness to engage with other sectors of the community should be seen as a positive move and their initiative should be applauded.

However, the "Breakers Jury" is still out on one addition to the ground. A massive decking modelled on the front of a boat (in the Mariners theme) is perched at one end of the ground. It is an unusual feature but striking none-the-less.

NOTHING LIKE A CUP OF TEA



Frank Farina sipping tea, a half time ritual.

BY GLENN DAVIS

Strikers star goalscorer Frank Farina is having a great return season in the Ericsson Cup, smashing the club's record number of goals in a season with 16 to date.

Farina has brought a higher level of professionalism back with him following stints with overseas clubs FC Brugge, Bari, Strasbourg and Lille.

The professionalism is also being passed on to his team mates and even the Strikers administration, who have utilised Farina's popularity to secure Hyundai as a major sponsor and attract record crowds to Suncorp Stadium.

One of the stranger things Farina brought back with him was a half-time ritual consisting of a hot cup of tea.

Frank said he liked nothing better than to wind down after a gruelling half of soccer



and relax with a cup of tea.

"It's a habit I picked up while playing overseas," Farina said.

"When you're playing in freezing conditions, it's good to come off and get a warm drink into you, and it was a very common practice."

"In fact some of the boys actually preferred a good glass of cognac to a cup of tea."

Strikers team manager Ian Dalzell prepares Farina's cuppa just prior to half time in every match and said that it has now become a routine thing in his huge list of match day chores.

Word has it that several big tea companies are currently in serious sponsorship negotiations with Farina.

WOLLONGONG

Wolves before Olympic for Nick 'Alphabet'

BY PHIL MURPHY



Wolves boss Nick Theodorakopoulos had always wanted to coach UTS Olympic.

That was before he arrived at Brandon Park.

Theodorakopoulos now wants to finish the job he has started with Wollongong City and become part of the club's

history.

He took over the Wolves coaching job from Berti Mariani at Christmas when the club was on the bottom of the league.

While Wollongong are still struggling, Theodorakopoulos has won over his players and many supporters.

He has the players much fitter than they were and playing a good brand of football.

"We haven't had much luck since I took over but I have been very pleased with the attitude of my players," Theodorakopoulos said.

"They have responded to my coaching with enthusiasm and worked very hard.

"There have been times when I have really felt for them.

"In games such as Olympic (away) and Sydney United (home) we played really well but couldn't get the three points.

"I have to admit that when I arrived in Wollongong I saw it as a stepping stone to one day coaching Olympic.

"I had played with Olympic and always regarded them as my club."

Theodorakopoulos said that since he started working with the Wollongong players he had changed his outlook.

He said if given the choice between going to Olympic as coach or staying with Wollongong he would stay with the Wolves.

"I can honestly say I would elect to stay with Wollongong," he said.

"Everyone here has been very supportive of me, I would like to become part of the club's history.

"Wollongong have already signed Sonny Sevin for next season and a couple of other big names are being mentioned to join him.

"I think the club can shake off the

disappointment of this season and become a strong force next season."

Wolves chairman Brian Hastings told ABSW yesterday the board would discuss the coaching position in the very near future.

He said Theodorakopoulos had made it clear he wanted to stay on.

"Nick has done a good job for the club and would obviously have a good chance of staying on," Hastings said.

"The board wants to get things sorted out as soon as possible — before the end of the season if that is feasible.

"Next season will probably be the most vital in Wollongong's history.

"We have had a bad season and can't afford that to happen again.

"Obviously we are required to boost our administration for next season and there will be new faces in our squad."

Wollongong have three games to wind up this season — home to Brisbane and Melbourne Knights and away to Newcastle.

Friday week's visit to Mitre 10 Stadium could well decide whether Wollongong or Newcastle take the wooden spoon.



Nick 'Alphabet' Theodorakopoulos:
"Wolves can become strong force next season."

ADELAIDE CITY

Hassell's form reversal brings benefits

BY CHRISTOPHER LINES



Adelaide City striker Brad Hassell said a change of attitude was the major factor behind his form reversal of recent weeks.

Hassell said a lazy attitude and a general disinterest in soccer caused the form slump that saw him dropped from City's first-choice team.

Hassell said the resolution of some personal problems off the pitch and a renewed commitment to the game were behind his resurgence in 1996.

"At the moment I am playing a hell of a lot better than I have in the past two years put together," Hassell said.

"I've lifted my game almost 100 per cent.

"It's just a change of attitude - a few personal things that have been sorted out.

"I was very lazy and didn't have much care about the game.

"It got to the point where something had to give and everything is coasting along well," he said.

Zebra's coach John Perin described the turnaround in his strikers fortunes.

"The last 10 to 12 games have been absolutely outstanding," Perin said.

"He contributes a lot to Damian's (Mori) success.

"He has had a complete turnaround.

"Last year he gave us absolutely nothing all year and he started the year the same way but he has really turned the corner," Perin said.

Hassell has this year been the silent partner in a City attack dominated by Damian Mori, who has scored 28 goals this season.

"He really gees everyone up, he's a very exciting player and he really wants to win the game so it builds you up personally," Hassell said.



Bradley Hassell: His change of attitude is a complete turnaround.

"With him being the main goalscorer, I do tend to set up a lot of goals for him, more so than he does for

me," he continued.

Adelaide City has a right to be ambivalent about Hassell's form, for an

Olyroo recall could beckon, which would deny them of his services in the finals' series.

WEST ADELAIDE

Finals series place rests on others

BY CHRISTOPHER LINES

A last minute conceded goal against Morwell Falcons and a devastating 3-0 loss to Adelaide City in the derby has suddenly thrown into doubt West Adelaide's quest to qualify for the finals.

With only one point out of six, the Sharks now sit two points behind City in seventh place, and three points behind Brisbane, Melbourne Knights and Sydney United.

West's season-long likelihood of making the six now comes down to its last two games of the season against table-toppers UTS Olympic and Marconi.

West's Olyroo midfielder Richie Alagich said confidence was still high in the West camp with the knowledge that destiny lay in their own hands.

"If we can pick up six



Richard Alagich: Maybe unavailable for finals series.

points against Canberra and Wollongong, we'll be right up in the top six again."

"It's still up to us which is the great thing about it," Alagich said.

West will stand to benefit from dropped points when the teams currently above them meet each other. West fans will be hoping for finals' qualification not only for their 10/1 shot at premiership glory, but as a fitting send off for



coach Raul Blanco.

Blanco is parting company with the Sharks to concentrate his efforts on the Olyroos — where Alagich is again a chance to figure.

Alagich and midfield partner Ross Aloisi are both candidates for Australia's squad in the CONCACAF and Oceania play-off for Atlanta.

The players selected for those games will be available for the first week of finals but absent for the major semi-final, the preliminary final and of course the grand final as the squad will fly out in



Ross Aloisi: Candidate for Olyroos squad.

mid-May.

Meanwhile, former West keeper Martyn Crook was this week

announced as the National Youth League (SA Division) coach of the year.



ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

United's slide continues as Knights win

SYDNEY UNITED 2 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Andrew Marth, the Melbourne Knights' midfielder enforcer, with a powerful second half display marshalled his side to a most valuable 4-2 victory over Sydney United last Saturday night at the Sydney Croatian Sports Centre, to lift his current League champions further up the leader.

Sydney United, despite holding a 2-1 lead in the 37th minute, were forced to play the last 51 minutes with 10 men after referee Simon Micallef dismissed central-midfielder Robbie Enes for a second bookable offence.

United's loss was most crucial at this stage of the season and they could now

SCORERS: Sydney United: Milicic (18), Moric (37). Knights: D. Cervinski (9), Kutlesovski (55), Marth (85), T. Pondeljak (88).
YELLOW CARDS: Sydney United: Enes (35, 39), Bilokapic (54), Z. Babic (84). Knights: Z. Markovski (7), D. Cervinski (54), Marth (75).
RED CARD: United: Enes (39).
GOAL: 3-Marth (Knights), 2-DeAmicis (Knights), 1-Moric (United).
CROWD: 4,918
REFEREE: S Micallef

finish lower than last season's creditable third spot.

The Sydney side almost scored as early as the 4th minute when a Paul Bilokapic header was cleared off the line by Knights' reliable left-defender

Fausto De Amicis.

However it was the Knights who opened the score five minutes later. Mark Rudan fouled centre-back Adrian Cervinski and a thunderous Marth free-kick from 30 metres was spilled by United's goalkeeper Johnny Perosh allowing striker David Cervinski to race in and slam the rebound home.

United's super-talented international striker Ante Milicic balanced the books in the 18th minute with a magnificent solo effort. Gathering possession 35 metres out on the left, he raided on the flank, veered infield and at top pace from along the edge of the box smashed the target.

Left midfielder Ante Moric in the 25th minute hit a Manis Lamond cross from the right onto the Knights' cross bar. In the 37th minute it was Moric who lifted United to a 2-1 lead with a powerful left-footed drive from 20 metres.

Two minutes later Enes was booked again for not retreating 10 metres for a free-kick.

Ten minutes after the break the Knights equalised at 2-2 when a free kick was chested down by United's lanky Bilokapic in front of his own goalmouth allowing the cool Ice Kutlesovic to slash in a low drive from the left.

Desperate to regain the lead for United, Moric did magnificently well in the 65th minute to turn two defenders wide on the right before crossing perfectly to striker Lamond inside the Knights' box. The latter could only manage a tame header which softly sailed into Juric's gloves.

Marth took charge from this time on driving his forces into battle with tenacity. Repeatedly the powerfully framed Victorian skipper galloped upfield from his deep position to cut United's lines to ribbons.

Five minutes from the bell



Andrew Marth: Tower of strength for the Knights.

De Amicis crossed from the flank to find the towering Marth on the back post to head in No 3.

With two minutes left, pacey substitute Tommy Pondeljak cemented all three League points when he split a square United defence to

scream away on a 35 metre raid and clinically score past an exposed and advancing Perosh for goal No 4.

Knights' coach Ian Dobson quietly reflected: "I believe the turning point for us was when United had a player sent off. Up until that

moment they were playing better than us, but we did extremely well to come back against 10 men.

"How many times do you see a team with only 10 men outplay a full team?"

"This was a big game for us, and under the circumstances the result was more important for us."

United's coach Branko Culina, obviously angered by some of the refereeing, was reluctant to say much, managing only: "Until Enes was sent off I was pleased with the way we were playing."

UNITED: Perosh,

Markovac, (C. Gibson 81), Kuprasak, Rudan, M. Babic, Zdrilic, Enes, Bilokapic, Moric (Patikas 77), Lamond, Milicic (S. Babic 66).
KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic, Z. Markovski (Vojtek 21), D. Cervinski, Simunic, DeAmicis, Nastevski (Kovacevic 69), Marth, Kutlesovski, Spiteri (T. Pondeljak 58), A. Cervinski.

South keep pressure on top six

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 UTS OLYMPIC 1

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

UTS Olympic, down to 10 men for 80 minutes, lost 2-1 to South Melbourne at Lakeside Stadium on Saturday.

Walter Ardone was sent off after 10 minutes when he punched out Vaughan Coveny's header on the goal-line.

The loss means that Olympic have only won once at the last eight attempts, while three points keeps South's almost impossible finals dream alive.

From Tansell Baser's corner Coveny's goal bound header was handled on the line by Ardone.

Referee Eugene Brazzale, in perfect position, had no option but to send the Olympic midfielder off.

Steve Panopoulos converted the penalty, but Coveny was injured after his header and had to be replaced by Michael Curcija.

It took just four minutes for the 10

SCORERS: South: Panopoulos (12 pen), Curcija (72). Olympic: Taliadoros (16).
YELLOW CARDS: South: Anthopoulos (32), Curcija (72). Olympic: Zelic (65), Poimer (76).
RED CARD: Olympic: Ardone (10).
GOAL: 3-Damianos (South), 2-Panopoulos (South), 1-Trajanovski (Olympic).
CROWD: 4,789
REFEREE: E. Brazzale.

men of Olympic to equalise when Kris Trajanovski supplied a perfect through ball for Kimon Taliadoros to fire in off the post.

Panopoulos nearly added another goal early in the second half when he followed up a rebound but could only shoot against the post.

Shortly after Nick Meredith went on a marauding run before firing a rocket just wide of Mike Petkovic's post.

South's enormous pressure finally paid off 18 minutes before full-time.

Bill Damianos's lobbed ball forward was chested down by stand in striker Baser to Curcija who blasted high into the roof of the net.

Blues coach Frank Arok concedes that it might not look good for a finals position but they can at least mess up plans for the other teams they play.

SOUTH: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmasovic, Anthopoulos (Nikolic 70), Panopoulos, Coveny (Curcija 15), Trimboli, Damianos Knezevic (Sherifovski 59), Baser, Oric.

OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Ciantar, Taliadoros, Tome, (Poimer 62), Trajanovski, Ardone, Meredith (Edwards), Blagojevic, Baillie, Zelic.



Michael Curcija: Substitute for Coveny in 15th minute and scored decisive goal.

Fairfielders stagger in Wollongong

WOLLONGONG CITY 0 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

BY PHIL MURPHY

Marconi coach Manfred Schaefer drove to Wollongong knowing his team faced one of their toughest games of the season.

He was dead right. Bottom of the league but with a work ethic the envy of many other clubs, Wolves held the leaders to a scoreless draw.

There were no goals but plenty of excitement and Schaefer had no complaints.

"Last week we led 2-0 and drew with Canberra — that upset me," he said.

"This week we kept our shape and played some good football but Wollongong just worked hard and held us out."

"The goals will start coming." Schaefer said one or two of his players became frustrated when they failed to crack the Wollongong defence.

Striker Francis Awaritefe was a perfect example.

He was tightly marked by Richard Lloyd and replaced with seven minutes to go.

Matt Dihm was the Wolves other standout performer, keeping a tight rein on Awaritefe's striking partner, Andy Harper.

Matt Bingley was the Marconi player who caused Wollongong most problems, ghosting into great attacking

YELLOW CARD: Wollongong: Bourke 87.
GOAL: 3-Lloyd (Wollongong) 2-Bingley (Marconi) 1-Dihm (Wollongong).
CROWD: 3,036
REFEREE: J. Papanicolas

positions in the second half.

Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes denied Bingley with a fine second-half save and he also had a header cleared off the line by sweeper Angelo Petratos.

Fullback Alvin Ceccoli cleared off his line from Dominic Longo in the first half but it wasn't all one-way traffic.

Mario Jermen had a fine header rattle the Marconi



Tony Perinich: His midfield efforts were a highlight of the match.

crossbar after Lupcho Naumovski provided the cross and Petratos just failed to get a touch after Ceccoli sent a low drive into the Marconi goalmouth.

Petratos again did well as the spare men and Tony Perinich got through a lot of work in a midfield role.

Perinich, who gets past players so easily with his acceleration, could find himself filling that role for the rest of the season. Marconi players claimed they were robbed of a penalty in the 14th minute when two Wollongong players fouled Awaritefe after he had got clear in the box.

Adelaide referee, John Papanicolas, who kept the game moving, waved away the claims.

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said after the game he was pleased that his players had finally received some reward for their efforts.

"We have been playing well against good sides with nothing to show for it," he said.

"The boys have held the best team in Australia to a draw and stopped them from scoring a goal."

"They certainly don't deserve to finish on the bottom and I'm now confident that won't be the case."

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Petratos, Bourke, Horsley (Gjakovski 86), Naumovski, Dimoski (Laybutt 79), Perinich, Lloyd, Dihm, Jermen, Ceccoli.

MARCONI: Catlin, De Marigny, Bingley, Casserly (Zoric 69), Harper, Hristodoulou, Maloney, Awaritefe (Stanton 83), Souris, Renaud, Longo.



ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Falcons send Breakers tumbling

MORWELL FALCONS 1 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

BY CON STAVROS

Newcastle's return to the elite of Australian soccer seems destined to end in disaster after the Breakers fell 1-0 to fellow strugglers, Morwell Falcons last Saturday night.

The loss was the Breakers sixth in succession and threatens to hand them the dreaded wooden spoon for finishing at the bottom of the table. While Newcastle were not expected to bounce back as a power after being readmitted to the league last year, they did promise to be more competitive than their form this season has suggested.

SCORER: Morwell: Masi (73)
YELLOW CARDS: Morwell: Tapai (48)
Newcastle: Halpin (31)
POY: 3-Tapai (Morwell)
2-Waddell (Morwell)
1-Halpin (Newcastle)
CROWD: 1,267
REFEREE: J. Fraser

Morwell have now earned a clean sweep over Newcastle this season, having defeated them in all three encounters.

Breaker coach John Kosmina seems unperturbed by the latest dry spell, remaining adamant that things will come right.

When asked if he was looking forward to the end of the season after the Morwell defeat, Kosmina was quick to say no, suggesting that he liked to persevere for as long as possible.

Morwell certainly deserved their victory after

making most of the running in what was an otherwise tedious encounter.

The goalscoring hero was Fijian sensation Esala Masi, who fired home from just inside the box in the 73rd minute after a shot by Brian Bothwell was deflected towards him.

Masi improved as the game wore on, but the Falcons most impressive performers were veterans Ernie Tapai and John Waddell.

The Falcons will be hard pressed to replace Tapai at the end of the season, with the midfielder combining well with Waddell's reading of the game in defence to set up quick forward raids.

Only one clear chance fell to either side in the first half, with an otherwise unsighted Bothwell firing right at goalkeeper Adam Fittock from close range.

A seemingly inflexible

Newcastle lacked creativity all night, preferring to shoot mostly from long range with general inaccuracy.

Things seemed to get worse for the visitors as the game wore on, with Tapai beginning to edge out the skilful Troy Halpin for the majority of control in midfield.

Tapai almost broke through in the 58th minute with a chip that narrowly went over the bar.

Newcastle's best hope fell to Glen Sprod in the 64th minute, with his header from close range flying just wide of the post. Sprod's head was called into action at the opposite end of the ground just three minutes later as he headed a fierce goalbound shot by Carlo Talladira off the line.

Before Masi's winning goal, Morwell also managed to hit the post, with a quickly taken free-

kick by Waddell catching everyone by surprise and striking the frame of a completely unguarded goal as Newcastle literally discussed the placement of their defensive wall.

Masi's winner just moments later put the match well beyond the uninspiring Breakers.

With Morwell rebuilding for next season, when they will play under the title of the Gippsland Falcons, coach Harry Bingham was at pains to stress that at this time last year Olympic and Marconi were in the same stage of redevelopment as the Falcons are now.

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Miller, Canosa, Waddell, Spink (Villani 88), Talladira (Reda 77), Masi, Mangos, Bothwell, Tapai.

NEWCASTLE: Fittock, Sanderson, Hickman, Maier, Roberts, Sharpley, Halpin, Zane, Bennett, Sprod, Ritchie.



Ernie Tapai: Will be hard to replace for next season.

Zebras and Strikers end in stalemate

ADELAIDE CITY 0 BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

BY PETER KRUPKA

The battle for the National League top six heated up last Saturday, with Adelaide City and Brisbane Strikers playing out a scoreless draw at the Hindmarsh Stadium.

It was a major contrast to the other two results between the teams this season, with the Zebras winning the first in Adelaide 7-0 and the Strikers winning their second encounter 7-1 in Brisbane.

City, unbeaten in its last 10 games, jump over Sydney United into fifth spot because of the draw while Brisbane, the last team to beat the Zebras, fell one spot to fourth.

Constant drizzle during the match made the Hindmarsh surface slippery and neither team coped well with the conditions, but the best chances of the match fell to the home side.

Goran Lozanovski let rip with a stunning 30-metre right foot shot from a standing start in the first half, which beat Brisbane goalkeeper Clint Bolton and sizzled onto the inside of the post before being cleared by the defence.

Earlier, Bradley Hassell had the chance to open the scoring when he was set up by Damian Mori for a left foot shot, which the 'keeper saved with his legs at the near post.

The Zebras were forced to play

YELLOW CARDS: Adelaide: Lozanovski (78)
Brisbane: Jackson (85)
POY: 3-Hunter (Brisbane)
2-Ivanovic (Adelaide)
1-Costanzo (Adelaide)
CROWD: 2,615
REFEREE: E. Lennie

10 minutes of the first half without Hassell, who left the field to receive stitches for a gash above his left eye. He suffered the cut after an accidental collision with the knee of Brisbane's Chay Hews.

Mori, who set up Lozanovski for a shot at goal, looked certain to score his 29th goal for the season in the opening minute of the second half when he intercepted a terrible goal kick and ran through with only Bolton to beat. But his shot was brilliantly



Alan Hunter: Veteran defender threatened at set pieces.

saved.

Brisbane ventured close to scoring a few times but lacked system near the goal in the slippery conditions.

Giant Strikers defender Alan Hunter was causing problems for the City defence from corners and set piece plays. A flicked-on header from a corner in the second half crept under City 'keeper Jason Petkovic across the face of goal, but wide of the feet of Brisbane players.

City's Kosta Salapasis had two tough goalscoring chances in the second half, but failed to make the most of them.

Brisbane coach Bruce Stowell was delighted with the point and frank about what he wanted out of the trip to Adelaide.

"I selected a side that would work hard and give nothing away and if it could pinch something, all well and good," Stowell said.

"You can't play for a draw against teams like Adelaide City, but we didn't throw everything forward to attack either."

With so many goals scored in the previous two matches, Stowell said a scoreless draw was a predictable result.

"It did not surprise me it was a no-scoring event. We were obviously a bit cautious with them, given their good record over the past seven or eight games."

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Mori, Hassell, Lozanovski, Costanzo, Mennillo, Salapasis, Brazzale, Foster.

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams, Hunter, Jackson, Phillips, Farina (Battistin 88), Brown, Wright, Cranney, Hews (Polak 70).

CANBERRA COSMOS 0 WEST ADELAIDE 1

BY GRAHAM COOKE

Coach Raul Blanco described it as a crucial win in difficult times and there could be no under-estimating the importance of West Adelaide's 1-0 margin over Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium last

SCORER: West: Keramidas (56)
YELLOW CARDS: Canberra: Mazis (9), Armstrong (49)
West: Kokkinopitis (18), Morrison (38)
POY: 3-Tsekinis (West), 2-Mazis (Canberra), 1-Giannasca (Canberra)
CROWD: 2,176
REFEREE: B. Hugo

Saturday.

The three points kept Wests firmly in the race for a final six



Jim Tsekinis: Another Man of the Match performance for West Adelaide.

place and gave them added confidence for the second leg of their road trip, at Wollongong, on Easter Monday.

"Canberra was always going to be hard," Blanco said.

"Few teams come here and win."

West Adelaide did it without the injured Branko Milosevic and with Robbie Hooker and Frank Tibaldi suspended, was put down to a "workmanlike" performance.

"In a sense this was our most important game of the year," Blanco said.

"And despite parting company with our normal style of play for a while in the first half, we handled it well."

Against the run of play, it was Adelaide which opened the scoring in the 56th minute.

Jim Tsekinis took a corner on the right, the ball was only half cleared and Jim Keramidas who had come on as a substitute at half time, hit the ball back through a mass of players into the far corner of the net.

The Cosmos were far from finished, but a missed chance by John Koch typified their evening.

The big defender switched to the frontline and found an opening, only for the ball to slice off his boot and bobble harmlessly into 'keeper Peter Blazincic's arms.

CANBERRA: Giannasca, Dee, Watson, Wade, Castro (Perinovic 74), Koch, Mazis, Lemezina, Armstrong, Musitano, T. Popovich.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Alagich, Kokkinopitis, Slager, Cardozo (Mezensof 83), Aloisi, Morrison, Tsekinis, Andrioli (Keramidas HT), Day, Thorp.

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Wollongong City v Brisbane Strikers



**Friday,
April 12**
**BRANDON
PARK**



WOLVES	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Brett Hughes	G	28 (0)	0	3 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	28 (0)	0	4 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	11 (3)	0	1 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (7)	1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	9 (1)	0	2 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	19 (2)	2	3 (0)
Mike O'Shea	D	11 (0)	0	5 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	5 (1)	0	3 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	5 (11)	1	2 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	10 (2)	1	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Stephen Laybutt	M	0 (6)	0	0 (0)
Pedro Ricoy	M	16 (0)	0	4 (1)
Matt Horsley	M	27 (0)	0	1 (0)
Lupco Naumovski	M	25 (0)	2	3 (0)
Angelo Petratos	M	12 (12)	2	4 (1)
Saso Dimoski	S	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mario Jermen	S	15 (5)	6	1 (0)
Colin Luff	S	4 (11)	1	0 (0)
Tony Perinich	S	29 (0)	8	2 (0)
Stuart McClaren	S	7 (2)	0	2 (0)
Rob Middleby	S	12 (2)	0	2 (2)

* Paul Beltrame's stats include 4 full and 3 substitute appearances, 2 y c for Marconi
* Joe Vrkic made 1 sub appearance for Syd Utd.

Head to head: Level 4-2-4, Goals (16-13)
Wolves at home: 3-1-1, Goals (11-4)

RECORD

WOLVES	BRISBANE
Record Score: 3-0 (H)	Record Score: 2-0 (H)
'91-'92 + '92-'93..	'93-'94 + '94-'95.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 1-3-1	Away: 0-2-3

BRISBANE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Clint Bolton	G	29 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	12 (10)	1	3 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	8 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	25 (0)	2	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	12 (2)	0	5 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	24 (2)	3	5 (1)
Craig Williams	D	16 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	20 (4)	3	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	17 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	29 (0)	0	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	4 (7)	1	1 (0)
Chay Hews	M	4 (8)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	23 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	26 (1)	3	3 (0)
Danny Wright	M	14 (5)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenaere	S	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	27 (0)	12	2 (0)
Frank Farina	S	25 (0)	16	5 (1)
Kasey Wehrman	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(77) Alistair Russell: Brisbane
(70) John Economos: Draw
(84) Greg Blake: Brisbane
(79) Con Stavros: Brisbane
(62) Bob Brooks: Brisbane

Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle Breakers



**Saturday,
April 13**

**BRUCE
STADIUM**



CANBERRA	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Steve Mautone	G	20 (0)	0	1 (0)
Tony Giannasca	G	5 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ben Harris	G	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Danny Milosevic	G	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Paul Dee	D	25 (1)	1	5 (0)
Stan Dukic	D	8 (4)	0	1 (0)
Peter Mazis	D	15 (0)	1	3 (0)
Richard Watson	D	19 (1)	0	3 (0)
Jason Dunn	D	23 (0)	2	5 (1)
Joe Gagetti	D	4 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Wade	D	25 (0)	11	2 (0)
Jim Baxter	M	5 (4)	0	1 (0)
Alex Castro	M	11 (1)	3	1 (0)
Gus Cerro	M	6 (0)	0	1 (0)
Norman Kelly	M	17 (0)	2	6 (0)
John Koch	M	22 (0)	0	2 (0)
Arsenije Popovich	M	3 (6)	1	1 (0)
Toplica Popovich	M	16 (1)	0	5 (0)
Willie Hastie	M	3 (1)	0	1 (0)
Paul McVitie	M	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Musitano	M	21 (2)	6	4 (1)
Lachlan Armstrong	M	18 (0)	5	6 (1)
Michael Garcia	M	10 (1)	0	0 (0)
Njegosh Popovich	M	3 (0)	0	1 (0)
Tony Lomezina	S	9 (9)	2	2 (0)
Marko Perinovic	S	24 (1)	6	9 (0)

Head to Head: Canberra 1-1-0, Goals (8-7)
Canberra at home: 1-0-0, Goals (3-2)

RECORD

CANBERRA	NEWCASTLE
Record Score: 3-2 (H)	Record Score: N/A.
1995-1996.	
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 1-3-1	Away: 0-0-5

NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Craig Carter	G	24 (0)	0	3 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	19 (1)	0	2 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	23 (1)	0	7 (2)
Nick Johns	D	1 (2)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	29 (0)	0	4 (0)
Glen Moore	D	8 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	16 (2)	1	6 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	11 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	19 (1)	0	4 (0)
Ryan Smith	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Linkon Knott	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	20 (3)	2	2 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	21 (2)	0	3 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	15 (3)	5	7 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	12 (6)	1	4 (1)
Jason Bennett	S	22 (1)	8	0 (0)
David Lowe	S	19 (4)	5	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	20 (5)	5	4 (1)

ABSW TIPS

(77) Alistair Russell: Canberra
(70) John Economos: Draw
(84) Greg Blake: Canberra
(79) Con Stavros: Canberra
(62) Bob Brooks: Canberra

South Melbourne v West Adelaide



**Sunday,
April 14**

**BOB JANE
STADIUM**



SOUTHS	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Lilikakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	11 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	15 (3)	0	4 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	8 (0)	0	3 (0)
Nick Orlic*	D	20 (5)	1	3 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	11 (0)	0	1 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	24 (0)	0	5 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	25 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	14 (5)	0	2 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	12 (2)	1	7 (2)
Bill Damianos	M	16 (8)	4	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (11)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	21 (2)	6	4 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	26 (0)	0	7 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	9 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	24 (0)	10	3 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	5 (5)	4	1 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (14)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	12 (6)	1	2 (1)

Head to Head: Souths 21-2-10, Goals (68-35)
Souths at home: 11-1-4, Goals (38-18)

RECORD

SOUTHS	WEST AD
Record Score: 7-1 (A)	Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1991-1992.	1992-1993.
LAST 5 MATCHES	LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1	Away: 2-1-2

WEST AD	Pos	GMS () RES	GLS	YC () RC
Peter Blazincic	G	29 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	26 (0)	4	4 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (7)	0	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	23 (0)	0	4 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	25 (0)	0	6 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	27 (0)	2	4 (0)
Richie Alagich	M	27 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	27 (0)	3	8 (0)
Ayrton Andrioli	M	11 (5)	2	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	8 (5)	1	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	24 (2)	7	6 (0)
Atthan Lekkas	M	2 (3)	0	1 (0)
Scott Morrison	M	2 (4)	0	1 (0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	14 (2)	0	2 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	14 (5)	0	2 (0)
Jim Tsekinis	S	28 (1)	14	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	9 (8)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	3 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	16 (9)	4	5 (0)

* Branko Milosevic Stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

(77) Alistair Russell: Souths
(70) John Economos: West Ad
(84) Greg Blake: West Ad
(79) Con Stavros: Souths
(62) Bob Brooks: Souths

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Adelaide City v Melbourne Knights



Sunday,
April 14

HINDMARSH
STADIUM



AD CITY	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
Jason Petkovic	G	29 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	28 (0)	0	4 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (4)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	26 (0)	2	3 (0)
Brad Armour	D	26 (0)	1	7 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	25 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	11 (3)	0	3 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	7 (12)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	15 (0)	6	1 (0)
John Gibson	M	22 (0)	1	3 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	28 (0)	0	5 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	13 (11)	2	4 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (1)	0	3 (1)
Michael Perone	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Brad Hassell	S	27 (1)	11	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	29 (0)	28	2 (0)
Joe Mullen	S	8 (1)	3	1 (0)
Kosta Salapasis	U	6 (12)	0	0 (0)
Adrian Landorio	U	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

* Mark Brazzale's stats include 5 full and 1 substitute appearance for West Adelaide.

Head to Head: Ad City 11-6-9, Goals (33-29)
Ad City at home: 8-3-2, Goals (27-9)

RECORD

AD CITY

Record Score: 6-0 (H)
1990-1991.
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 4-1-0

KNIGHTS

Record Score: 4-0 (H)
1991-1992.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 3-1-1

KNIGHTS	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
Frank Juric	G	29 (0)	0	1 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	26 (0)	1	6 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	11 (4)	0	3 (0)
David Cervinski	D	27 (0)	2	7 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	27 (0)	0	3 (0)
Branko Bacak	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	24 (2)	0	3 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	26 (0)	6	7 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	25 (1)	3	6 (0)
Idriz Pelia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	11 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	15 (11)	0	4 (0)
Damian Vojtek	M	6 (12)	1	1 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	8 (7)	1	1 (0)
Adrian Cervinski	S	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	7 (12)	6	1 (0)
John Markovski	S	13 (1)	3	4 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (4)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	22 (0)	7	7 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	15 (4)	7	0 (0)
Dragi Nasteviski	U	6 (4)	0	2 (0)

* Joe Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

Sydney United v Morwell Falcons



Sunday,
April 13

SYD CROATIAN
SPT CENTRE



SYD UTD	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
John Perosh	G	26 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Crews	G	4 (1)	0	0 (0)
Mark Babic	D	24 (0)	0	4 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	24 (0)	1	7 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	28 (0)	0	5 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	13 (5)	1	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	22 (0)	4	3 (1)
Mark Rudan	D	12 (8)	2	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	27 (0)	0	8 (1)
Aytek Genc	M	19 (0)	3	5 (1)
Chad Gibson	M	3 (2)	1	2 (0)
Ante Moric	M	18 (0)	1	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	11 (5)	1	2 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	6 (2)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	13 (7)	3	2 (0)
Dominic Usalj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	6 (17)	5	4 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	9 (11)	6	2 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	26 (3)	6	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	27 (1)	7	2 (0)

Head to Head: Morwell 3-4-1, Goals (10-8)
Sydney Utd at home: 1-2-1, Goals (5-4)

RECORD

SYD UTD

Record Score: 3-0 (H)
1992-1993.
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1

MORWELL

Record Score: 2-0 (H)
'92-'93 + (A) '95-'96.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-0-4

MORWELL	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
Jim Kourtis	G	27 (0)	0	0 (0)
Jason Dastey	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Claudio Canosa	D	21 (3)	1	10 (0)
David Craig	D	2 (7)	0	1 (0)
Sean Douglas	D	21 (0)	1	4 (0)
Alex Cummings	D	10 (4)	0	1 (0)
Justin Geri	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Steve Mangos*	D	5 (4)	1	0 (0)
Scott Miller	D	26 (0)	2	5 (1)
Doug Marcina	D	29 (0)	0	2 (0)
John Waddell	D	24 (0)	1	3 (0)
James Alesi	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sonny Sevin	M	25 (1)	2	2 (0)
Marc Stergiopoulos	M	9 (13)	1	4 (0)
Carlo Talladira *	M	14 (7)	0	1 (0)
Ernie Tapai	M	25 (0)	2	10 (1)
Zoran Todorovski	M	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Brian Bothwell	S	23 (1)	5	8 (0)
Rob Despotovski	S	1 (5)	1	0 (0)
Michael Reda	S	20 (7)	2	4 (0)
Warren Spink	S	23 (0)	8	2 (0)
Carlo Villani	S	8 (9)	2	0 (0)
Esala Masi	S	8 (0)	4	0 (0)

* Carlo Talladira's stats include 2 full and 7 substitute appearances for Adelaide City
* Steve Mangos' stats include 4 full, 3 substitute appearances and 1 goal for Souths.

ABSW TIPS

(77) Alistair Russell: Draw
(70) John Economos: Ad City
(84) Greg Blake: Ad City
(79) Con Stavros: Ad City
(62) Bob Brooks: Draw

(77) Alistair Russell: Syd Utd
(70) John Economos: Syd Utd
(84) Greg Blake: Syd Utd
(79) Con Stavros: Syd Utd
(62) Bob Brooks: Syd Utd

UTS Olympic v Marconi Fairfield



Sunday,
April 13

LEICHHARDT
OVAL



OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
George Bouhoutsos	G	9 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	20 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	9 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	28 (0)	0	4 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	24 (0)	0	7 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	25 (0)	1	1 (1)
Nick Meredith	D	23 (1)	2	9 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (7)	0	2 (0)
Ivan Zelic	D	9 (2)	0	1 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	23 (2)	2	5 (1)
Elias Augerinos	M	7 (13)	2	2 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	28 (0)	18	2 (0)
Peter Tsekenis	M	23 (0)	1	5 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (6)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	7 (3)	0	1 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	27 (0)	8	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	22 (2)	6	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Derek Poimer	S	6 (5)	2	3 (0)
Carlos Gonzalez	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

Head to Head: Olympic 14-16-9, Goals (50-49)
Olympic at home: 6-11-3, Goals (26-23)

RECORD

OLYMPIC

Record Score: 5-3 (A)
1989.
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1

MARCONI

Record Score: 7-1 (H)
1993-1994.
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-3-2

MARCONI	Pos	GMS (I) RES	GLS	YC (I) RC
Bob Catlin	G	29 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	14 (6)	0	4 (1)
J P De Marigny	D	25 (0)	0	7 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	7 (4)	0	1 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	19 (0)	1	4 (1)
Mike Smith	D	17 (0)	5	5 (0)
Paul Souris	D	24 (4)	0	1 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	17 (9)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	12 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	23 (1)	7	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (3)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	21 (7)	3	0 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	27 (2)	5	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanello	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	11 (8)	4	2 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	9 (11)	1	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	28 (0)	12	5 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	27 (1)	11	5 (0)
Darren McDonald	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
John Angelucci	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(77) Alistair Russell: Marconi
(70) John Economos: Draw
(84) Greg Blake: Olympic
(79) Con Stavros: Marconi
(62) Bob Brooks: Draw



NSW

SOCCER FEDERATION



SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE

St George Saints.....1	Rockdale City Suns.....3
J. Buonavoglia (47).....	I. De Jesus (33), E. Williams (55), R. Gomez (87)
Bonnyrigg WE.....2	Leichhardt Tigers.....1
M. Ninkovic (20), J. Flynn (40)	S. Telisman (2)
Adamstown R'bud.....0	Sutherland Sharks.....1
	D. Klower (88)
Illawarra Lions.....1	Central Coast.....2
S. McLaren (62).....	N. Byrn (61), A. Clark (75)
Canterbury Berries.....0	Blacktown City Demons.....4
	J. Anderson (9), S. Berry (22), J. Connolly (41), S. Boudaher (75)
Warringah Dolphins.....4	Bankstown City Lions.....2
D. Harding (25, 88), F. Gigliotti (66)	N. Joseski (10), D. Guizzo (87)
S. Van Bentum (76)	

Parramatta Eagles v Macarthur Eagles

(Played Easter Monday after ABSW went to press)

UNDER 21

St George Saints.....2	Rockdale City Suns.....1
Bonnyrigg WE.....2	Leichhardt Tigers.....3
Adamstown R'bud.....0	Sutherland Sharks.....0
Illawarra Lions.....2	Central Coast.....3
Canterbury Berries.....3	Blacktown City Demons.....1

SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Leichhardt Tigers	9	5	2	2	13	11	17
Warringah Dolphins	9	4	4	1	17	9	16
Parramatta Eagles	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Bonnyrigg WE	9	4	4	1	21	16	16
Adamstown R'buds	9	5	1	3	14	10	16
Sutherland Sharks	9	3	6	0	12	9	15
Blacktown City	9	3	4	2	14	8	13
Bankstown City	9	4	1	4	19	14	13
Central Coast	9	3	3	3	15	16	12
St George Saints	9	3	3	3	10	12	12
Canterbury Berries	9	2	3	4	17	21	9
Illawarra Lions	9	1	4	4	12	18	7
Rockdale City Suns	9	1	2	6	11	24	5
Macarthur Rams	8	0	0	8	2	17	0

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE

Sydney Cosmos.....7	Mt Druitt Town.....1
Bathurst 75.....3	Hills United.....2
Ryde City.....3	Penrith Panthers.....3
Auburn United.....2	Hills United.....0
Sydney Cosmos.....4	Dulwich Hill.....1
Mt Druitt Town R.....1	Bathurst 75.....1
Sthn Minotaurs.....1	Fairfield Bulls.....0
Belmore Hercules.....0	West Wanderers.....0
Mt Pritchard.....1	Stanmore Hawks.....1

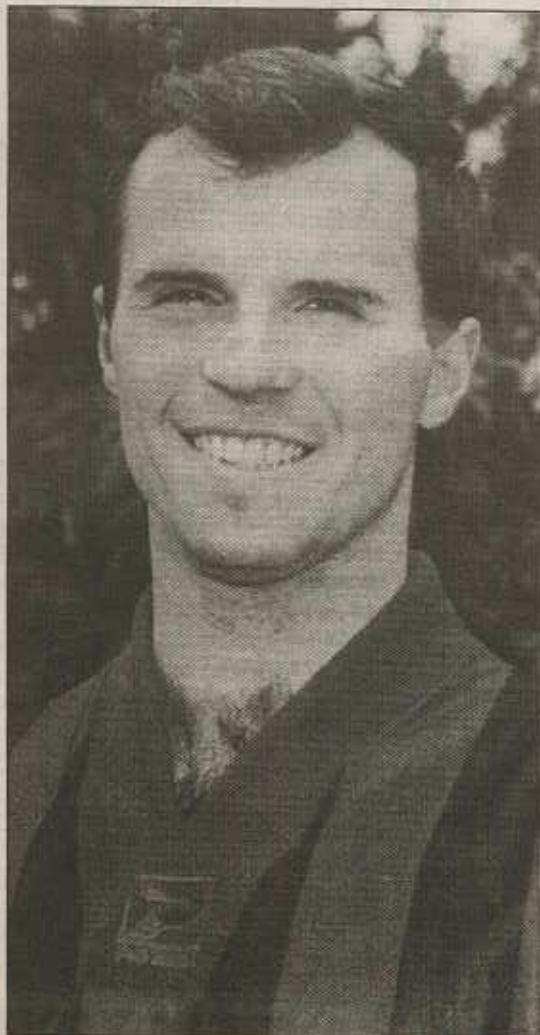
UNDER 21

Mt Druitt Town R.....4	Sydney Cosmos.....1
Hills United.....1	Bathurst 75.....1
Ryde City.....4	Penrith Panthers.....3
Hills United.....2	Auburn United.....1
Sydney Cosmos.....2	Dulwich Hill.....1
Bathurst 75.....3	Mt Druitt Town R.....1
Fairfield Bulls.....7	Sthn Minotaurs.....0
Belmore Hercules.....3	West Wanderers.....2
Mt Pritchard.....6	Stanmore Hawks.....1

UNDER 18

Stanmore Cosmos.....3	Mt Druitt Town R.....0
Hills United.....2	Bathurst 75.....1
Ryde City.....5	Penrith Panthers.....1
Hills United.....7	Auburn United.....1
Sydney Cosmos.....3	Dulwich Hill.....0
Bathurst 75.....2	Mt Druitt Town R.....1
Fairfield Bulls.....3	Sthn Minotaurs.....1
West Wanderers.....3	Belmore Hercules.....2
Mt Pritchard.....1	Stanmore Hawks.....1

DOLPHINS WIN THRILLER



Nikolce Joseski: Opened scoring in 10th minute.

WARRINGAH
DOLPHINS 4

BANKSTOWN CITY
LIONS 2

Warringah Dolphins struck four goals in a six goal thriller at Cromer Park on Easter Sunday to defeat a determined Bankstown City Lions.

Ace goal scorer Nikolce Joseski put away the first of the game for Bankstown as early as the tenth minute.

It took the Dolphins fifteen minutes to draw even as Dean Harding did the damage, getting his first of his eventual two.

The game remained at 1-1 until 21 minutes into the second half when Frank Gigliotti put the home side in front for the first time.

Stewart Van Bentum squared the game once more ten minutes later.

The second for Harding and a late strike from David Guzzo completed the score in favour of Warringah.

Demons squash Berries

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 10

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL

Sutherland Sharks v St George Saints

Seymour Shaw Park, 6.00pm

Central Coast v Canterbury Berries

Plum Park, 5.00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles

Gabbie Stadium, 6.00pm

Rockdale City Suns v Illawarra Lions

Rockdale Illinden Spt Complex, 3.00pm

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL

Leichhardt Tigers v Adamstown Rosebud

Lambert Park, 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Warringah Dolphins

Lynwood Park, 3.00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Jensen Park, 3.00pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

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(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

CANTERBURY
BERRIES 0
BLACKTOWN CITY
DEMONS 4

Canterbury Berries were squashed at their Bonnyrigg home by a fired up Blacktown City Demons, on Easter Sunday, going down 0-4.

The Demons form had been disappointing of late but they made the Berries pay the price as they showed some form at last.

Exciting prospect Jay Anderson, returning from injury, was the first name on the score sheet. He arrived there in the ninth minute. By half time Blacktown were three up with successful strikes from Steve Berry at the 22nd mark and bustling Jason Connolly four minutes from the break.

Sarkis Boudaher completed the rout in the 76th.

Berries coach, David Mijalkov will have to plug the team's defence as they have now conceded 21 in nine games.

SUNS CROSS DIVIDE FOR FIRST WIN



Ivo De Jesus: Rockdales first goal came from him.

ST. GEORGE SAINTS 1
ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 3

Rockdale City Suns travelled the short distance to St George Stadium on Saturday and came away with a three goals to one victory.

Ivo De Jesus opened the score sheet after 33 minutes but John Buonavoglia enabled the Saints to draw level just after half time.

Eric Williams scored his second in two weeks as the Suns retook the lead. Robbie Gomez completed the account almost on the final whistle.

This was Rockdale's first win of the season but they remain in second last spot.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE

Hakoah.....3	Earlwood Hermes.....1
Moorebank Sports.....7	St John's Park.....0
Colo Colo.....2	Gladesville Utd.....2
White City.....7	Sporting SCC.....2
Glebe Wanderers.....2	The Wanderers.....1
Prospect United.....1	Hawkesbury City.....0

SECOND GRADE

Earlwood Hermes.....2	Hakoah.....1
Moorebank Sports.....17	St John's Park.....0
Colo Colo.....2	Gladesville United.....0
Sporting SCC.....3	White City.....3
The Wanderers.....3	Glebe Wanderers.....2
Prospect United.....1	Hawkesbury City.....1

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE/SIX
FIRST GRADE

AVA United.....3	United Eagles.....1
Mascot Kings.....3	Bossy.....2
Camden.....2	Nepean Districts.....1
Gladesville Hornsby.....4	Homenetmen.....3
Queens Park.....1	NSW Police.....0
Maroubra United.....3	UWS Macarthur.....1
Kosciusko.....0	Blacktown Premiers.....0

SECOND GRADE

United Eagles.....3	AVA United.....2
Bossy.....4	Mascot Kings.....2
Camden.....3	Nepean District.....1
Gladesville Hornsby.....5	Homenetmen.....4
NSW Police.....1	Queens Park.....1
UWS Macarthur.....1	Maroubra United.....0
Blacktown Premiers.....4	Kosciusko.....0

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE
DIVISION TWO • FIRST

Illawarra Lions.....5	Macarthur (1).....2
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Sydney Cosmos v Bathurst postponed.



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION
Perry Park, Abbotsford Road,
Mayne, Queensland 4006
Phone: (07) 3252-5327
Fax: (07) 3252-1137

QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



Brisbane City out in front of pack

After five rounds, the **Abattle** for supremacy in the XXXX league has been blown apart by a rampant Brisbane City.

Following on from last year's success, City have dominated the title chase and opened up a commanding lead on its rivals.

What has made its effort even more outstanding is the way the side has overcome the loss of several players early in the season.

Lee Scriggins and Warren Cooley missed games but the side didn't skip a beat.

The group chasing the leaders has provided a few unexpected twists. Both Beenleigh and Grange Thistle are part of the chasing pack and enjoying excellent seasons to date.

Beenleigh, only promoted to the XXXX League this year, grabbed a valuable point off high-flyers Rochdale on the weekend and is proving to be one of the most competitive promoted sides in recent memory.

The fight for second place is intense with only three points separating six sides. This year promises to be one of the most

competitive ever.

Out Easts way, the year marks a special occasion for one of Queensland soccer's favourite sons and genuine good blokes, Stein Grodum.

Last year's Queensland captain and former National League player with both Brisbane United and the Brisbane Strikers, he is celebrating his testimonial year.

At a time when loyalty seems to be a dirty word in most sports, Stein has remained with Easts in the face of numerous offers from several clubs over his stellar career.

The club has already organised a cocktail night in his benefit and plans are underway for a dinner, with a high profile guest speaker and the customary celebrity match.

Having played for so many years with so many different players, he'll have a tough job selecting a final squad but it promises to be an entertaining clash.

Although East are not

enjoying the best of seasons to date, Stein's form hasn't wavered and he continues to be model for all players in the competition.

It's interesting to note that with the streamlining of the league for next year, loyalty will be tested amongst players at the clubs who don't make the eight team league.

One of the advantages of a 12 team league is the fact that players such as Stein Grodum can play at a club that may not have made an eight team



competition and still show his ability at a high level.

But the fact is the game must progress and an elite competition is the kick in the pants this game needs.

Sportsmanship on show

There was sportsmanship of the most noble kind at Albany Creek a few weeks ago, when the Creek met Mount Gravatt.

Albany Creek's Division Two reserve goalkeeper Cameron Johnson suffered a fractured skull after a sickening clash with a Mount Gravatt player during the match. The visiting side's trainer Joe Sikorski did not hesitate to assist Johnson, and played a leading role in the care of the injured player until the ambulance arrived.

Albany Creek have since expressed their gratitude to Mr Sikorski and Mount Gravatt.

STEWART NAMED STATE COACH

QSF President, Wallace Dann has announced the appointment of John Stewart as State Team coach for the 1996 representative program.

A former State Team captain, Stewart had overseas experience in the late 70's with Bristol City and Cheltenham Town, returning to Australia in 1983 to join Brisbane Lions before transferring to Melbourne for stints with Preston and Heidelberg in the National League.

In accepting the appointment Stewart said, "Being a Queenslander and having a strong affiliation with Soccer in the State, I look upon it as an honour and privilege to coach the State Team. It is certainly a challenge that I am looking forward to undertaking."

In announcing the appointment Dann said, "John certainly needs no introduction to the Queensland Soccer public. He has a long list of achievements to his name and his experience and dedication to the sport will undoubtedly serve him to advantage in his new role. I am sure the State Team will perform well under his guidance."

John's appointment caps a fine career in playing and coaching. A winner of the Gold Medal Award in 1991, Stewart finished his career with Rochdale Rovers and Acacia Ridge before taking up his current coaching position with Slacks Creek Soccer Club.

PLAYERS WANTED

Brisbane Celtic Supporters Club

COMMERCIAL LEAGUE

Friday nights
at 7.30pm

Home ground
in Annerley

Preferably
21 years and over

Phone Mel Begley
(07) 3390-3484

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Saturday, April 13

North Star v Grange Thistle O'Callaghan Park 7.00pm

Sunday, April 14

Brisbane City v Coalstars Spencer Park 2.45pm

Beenleigh v Pine Rivers Perry Park 12.30pm

Wynnum v Eastern Suburbs Carmichael Park 2.45pm

Taringa Rovers v Rochdale R. Jack Speare Park 2.45pm

Brisbane Lions v Nerang Perry Park 2.30pm

ROUND SIX

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

Brisbane City	5	5	0	0	11	3	15
Rochdale Rovers	6	4	1	1	20	4	13
Beenleigh	6	14	1	1	7	3	13
Grange Thistle	6	4	1	1	10	7	13
Wynnum District	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Coalstars	6	3	0	3	13	8	9
Taringa Rovers	6	2	1	3	9	8	7
Brisbane Lions	6	2	1	3	10	14	7
Nerang	6	2	0	4	10	16	6
Eastern Suburbs	6	1	1	4	6	13	4
Pine Rivers	6	1	0	5	12	21	3
North Star	6	0	1	5	7	23	1

RESULTS

Pine Rivers.....0	Coalstars.....2
Nerang.....1	Beenleigh.....2
Rochdale Rovers.....6	Brisbane Lions.....0
Grange Thistle.....2	Taringa Rovers.....1
Eastern Suburbs.....2	North Star.....2
Wynnum District.....n/a	Brisbane City.....n/a

DIVISION 2

Rocklea United	6	4	2	0	16	7	14
Olympic United	5	3	2	0	11	7	11
Logan City Kings	6	3	1	2	14	9	10
St Albans	6	2	3	1	16	9	9
Inala City	6	3	0	3	11	11	9
Acacia Ridge	5	2	1	2	13	7	7
Capalaba	5	2	1	2	9	12	7
Albany Creek	6	2	1	3	12	18	7
Willowburn	6	2	0	4	7	13	6
The Gap	6	2	0	4	8	15	6
Ipswich St Helens	6	2	0	4	7	14	6
Mount Gravatt	5	1	1	3	12	14	4

RESULTS

Logan City Kings.....2	Albany Creek.....2
Ipswich St Helens.....1	Inala City.....0
Rocklea United.....4	The Gap.....0
St Albans.....4	Willowburn.....0

DIVISION 3

Slacks Creek	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
Newmarket	6	5	0	1	10	5	15
Uni of Qld	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
Redlands United	6	3	0	3	18	9	9
Mitchelton	5	3	0	2	15	8	9
Latrobe Athletic	5	3	0	2	13	14	9
Goodna & Districts	5	2	1	2	10	6	7
Annerley Recreation	6	2	1	3	8	14	7
Western Suburbs	6	2	0	4	10	25	6
Souths United	6	1	2	3	4	6	5
Darra United	6	0	3	3	13	16	3
Clairvaux	6	0	0	6	7	25	0

RESULTS

Darra United.....3	Western Suburbs.....4
Slacks Creek.....2	Newmarket.....0
Uni of Qld.....N/A	Mitchelton.....N/A
Redlands United.....0	Souths United.....1
Clairvaux.....0	Annerley Recreation..2
Latrobe Athletic.....n/a	Goodna & Districts..n/a

DIVISION 4

South Star	6	6	0	0	14	2	18
Moggill United	6	5	0	1	14	4	15
Southside Eagles	6	4	1	1	14	9	13
Bayside United	6	4	0	2	16	7	12
North Pine United	5	2	2	1	11	5	8
Redcliffe City	6	2	2	2	15	11	8
Samford	5	2	1	2	7	4	7
Brothers United	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Ipswich City	6	1	1	4	3	19	4
Browns Plains	6	1	0	5	4	14	3
Pine Hills	6	1	0	5	8	21	3
Greenbank	5	0	1	4	8	16	1

RESULTS

Ipswich City.....2	Browns Plains.....0
Southside Eagles.....0	Moggill United.....3
Greenbank.....	Brothers United.....n/a
Samford.....	North Pine United.....n/a
South Star.....3	Redcliffe City.....0
Pine Hills.....0	Bayside United.....4

ROBERT TENNES

*Sydney
United*



Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Franco Baresi

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY



AC MILAN

500
SERIE A
MATCHES



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Suns. Georgies	8	7	1	0	17	5	22
Altona Magic	8	7	0	1	19	6	21
Heidelberg Utd	8	6	2	0	26	6	20
Bent. Greens	8	6	0	2	18	8	16
Bulleen Lions	8	3	3	2	11	8	17
Thomast. Zebras	8	3	3	2	12	12	12
Nt. Gee. Warriors	8	3	1	4	9	14	10
Gr. Gully Cav.	7	2	3	2	12	12	9
Pt Melb. Sharks	8	1	4	3	12	12	7
St Alb. Saints	8	2	1	5	2	15	7
Box Hill Inter	8	2	1	5	9	16	7
Fawkner Blues	8	0	2	6	6	19	2
Albion Redsoxs	8	0	1	7	3	19	1

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bulleen Lions	8	7	0	1	23	8	21
Bent. Greens	8	7	0	1	24	11	21
Pt. Melb. Sharks	8	5	1	2	14	6	20
Thomast. Zebras	8	5	0	3	24	12	19
Albion Redsoxs	8	4	2	3	18	21	19
Heidelberg Utd	8	4	0	3	22	14	11
Spr. City Vales	7	3	1	3	22	15	10
Fawkner Blues	8	3	1	4	10	21	10
Box Hill Inter	8	2	3	3	9	12	10
Suns. Georgies	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
St Alb. Saints	8	1	4	3	6	10	7
Altona Magic	8	2	1	5	15	24	7
Gr. Gully Cav.	7	1	2	4	11	13	5
Nt. Gee. Warriors	8	0	0	3	7	34	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sp. White Eagles	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
West. Suburbs	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Preston Lions	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Don'ter Rovers	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Moorabbin City	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Broadmeadows	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Werribee City	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Kingston City	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
C'don City Dons	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Richmond	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Glen Eira City	2	0	1	1	1	7	1
Lalor Utd	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Northcote City	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Westgate	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Don'ter Rovers	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Werribee City	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Moorabbin City	2	1	1	0	6	2	3
Richmond	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Croydon City	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Sp. White Eagles	2	1	0	1	8	4	3
Northcote City	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Lalor United	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Preston Lions	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Westgate	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
West. Suburbs	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Kingston City	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Broadmeadows	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Glen Eira City	2	0	0	2	2	11	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sth Dandenong	2	2	0	0	8	3	6
Altona East	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Ess. Brun. Royals	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Regent Bulla	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Oakleigh	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Westvale	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
East Richmond	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Altona City	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Knox City	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Waverley City	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Frankston Pines	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Mooroolbark	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Bell Park	2	0	0	2	4	7	0
Nunawading City	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	2	2	0	0	8	3	6
Westvale	2	2	0	0	7	5	6
Frank. Pines	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
East Richmond	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Mooroolbark	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Regent Bulla	2	1	0	1	7	6	3
Waverley City	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
Oakleigh	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Nunawading City	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Bell Park	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Altona East	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
South Dandenong	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Knox City	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Ess. Brun. Royals	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cranbourne	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Fitzroy City	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Sth Spr'vale	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Frankston	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Sth Werribee	2	1	1	0	13	1	4
Ringwood City	2	1	1	0	6	0	4
Dia. Valley Utd	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Pascoe Vale	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Melbourne City	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Keilor Eagles	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Banyule	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Clifton Hill	2	0	0	2	1	11	0
Chelsea	2	0	0	2	1	17	0
Sth Caulfield	2	0	0	2	2	7	-3

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ringwood City	2	2	0	0	12	1	6
Cranbourne	2	2	0	0	11	1	6
Fitzroy City	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
Sth Spr'vale	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Sth Werribee	2	2	0	0	7	4	6
Dia. Valley Utd	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Melbourne City	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Keilor Eagles	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Frankston	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Clifton Hill	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
Banyule City	2	0	0	2	2	10	0
Chelsea	2	0	0	2	2	12	0
Sth Caulfield	2	0	1	1	2	7	-2

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	2	2	0	0	10	3	6
Monbulk	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Sunbury Utd	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Stonnington	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Corio	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Yarraville	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Geelong	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Sun. Heights	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Lalor	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Williamstown	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Moreland City	2	0	1	1	3	2	1
Nth Coburg Utd	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
San'ham City	2	0	0	2	3	8	0
Seaford Utd	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
Moreland City	2	2	0	0	9	4	6
Sunbury Utd	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Lalor	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Geelong	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
S'shine Heights	2	1	0	1	9	2	3
Stonnington	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Nth Coburg Utd	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
Yarraville	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Williamstown	2	0	1	1	3	4	1

Monbulk	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Seaford Utd	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Corio	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Sandringham	2	0	0	2	0	10	0

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Scotch/Hawt	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Melton	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Sth Wantirna	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Knox Park	3	2	0	1	11	6	6
Geel. Rangers	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Mornington	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Keyborough	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Ballarat	3	2	0	1	5	8	6
Sp'vale Condors	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Glenroy	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Nth Sunshine	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Heidelberg City	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Doveton	3	0	0	3	3	9	0
Mitcham Utd	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	3	3	0	0	10	5	9
Mornington	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Glenroy	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Sp'vale Condors	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Keyborough	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Geelong Rangers	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Ballarat	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Heidelberg City	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Nth Sunshine	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Old Scotch/Hawt	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Melton	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Mitcham Utd	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Sth Wantirna	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Doveton	3	0	0	3	6	10	0

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Braeside Utd	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Lyndale United	3	2	1	0	11	5	7
Croxton	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Endeavour Utd	3	1	1	1	13	5	4
Brunswick City	3	1	1	1	8	9	4
Hoppers Cross	3	1	1	1	6	9	1
Meadow Park	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Dandenong	3	1	1	1	4	7	4
Brandon Park	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Sth Yarra	3	1	0	2	6	14	3
Hampton Pk Utd	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Nth Glenroy	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
East Nun. Eagles	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Berwick City	3	0	1	2	1	6	1



TACKLE DIABETES



Victorian Premier League

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ROUND 3

Glen Eira City v Northcote City

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Croydon City v Lalor Utd

Werribee City v Kingston City

Br'meadows City v Western Suburbs

Westgate v Doncaster Rovers

Richmond v S'vale Wht Eagles

Preston Lions v Moorabbin City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ROUND 3

Frankston Pines v Ess. Bruns Royals

Nunawading City v East Richmond

Bell Park v Oakleigh

Altona East v South Dandenong

Knox City v Altona City

Regent Bulla v Mooroolbark

Westvale v Waverley City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ROUND 3

Melbourne City v Sth Caulfield

Keilor Eagles v Diamond Valley Utd

Chelsea v Frankston

Pascoe Vale v Cranbourne

Clifton Hill v Sth Werribee

Banyule City v Ringwood City

Sth Springvale v Fitzroy City

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 ROUND 3

Yarraville v Sandringham City

Lalor v Sunbury Utd

Corio v Williamstown

Langwarrin v Geelong

Monbulk v Nth Coburg Utd

Stonnington City v Seaford Utd

Moreland City v Sunshine Heights

NO PROVISIONAL LEAGUE GAMES UNTIL APRIL 20

NEXT WEEKS DRAW

ROUND 9

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Box Hill Inter v Springvale City Vales
(kick off 8.30pm)

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Bentleigh Greens v
North Geelong Warriors

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Bulleen Lions v
Altona Magic

Sunshine Georgies v
Fawkner Blues

Green Gully Cavaliers v
Melbourne Warriors

Thomastown Zebras v
Albion Redsox

St Albans Saints v
Port Melbourne Sharks

REVIEW AFTER EIGHT ROUNDS

BY JOHN RIGAS

With eight rounds played in the Victorian Premier League there has already been three coaching changes, player swaps and a surprise new league leader.

Former Altona Magic coach Ian Dobson departed after the first round as he went on to coach the Melbourne Knights. Replacing him was former Soccerroo great Gary Cole who so far has only lost one game in seven outings.

Next to leave was last year's finalists coach John Dowie from the Albion Redsox who resigned due to a disastrous start to the season. Dowie was replaced by journeyman Bill Murray. Murray has yet to gain a point as coach of the struggling Redsox.



There are big problems at Fawkner as Tony Vrzina resigned as coach being replaced by youth team coach Mike Rainey. President Nick Tucci also resigned and Sam Rizza was invited to the committee and appointed president.

Fawkner is second last in the Premier League with just two points from eight matches. The only swap deal so far has been Carlos Retre from Fawkner going to Port Melbourne for Peter Psarros.

The Sunshine Georgies were expected to perform badly after the pre-season departures of six regulars which included former captain Norman Dougherty, Ged Stenson, Jamie Melrose, Agim Sherifovski and Craig Lewis.

Coach Willie Vassallo has only signed three players in Ilija Dragicevic (Melbourne Knights), Colin Cooper (Richmond) and Juan Nilo (Springvale City Vales). Nilo has gone on to be the league's second leading goal getter with eight goals and one



of the best signings so far.

Vassallo also promoted youngsters from the reserves to compete in Victoria's Premier Division.

The Melbourne Warriors seemed invincible at the start of the season when they handed out thrashings to a number of teams including last year's champions the Altona Magic with a scoreline reading 4-0, but since have been brought down to earth in the last two rounds as they were held to draws. Star player Peter Tsolakis left the club to take up a loan stint with Malaysian team Malacca.

New kids on the block Bentleigh Greens seem to have adjusted in the top flight by sitting in fourth position. The Greens have already had big wins, the major win being a 4-2 victory over the highly fancied Thomastown Zebras.

With players such as Ike Alagiozidis, Harry Micheil, Zoran Todorovski and 39-year-old goalkeeper Peter Laumets the Greens will be challenging for a top five spot. Last year's minor champions Port Melbourne have only won one game in eight starts.

The loss of big name players such as Sava Rusmir, Dean Fak and Michael Lilikakis has not helped the Sharks cause. Lilikakis, who not long ago played National League with South Melbourne has gone to Adelaide to play Aussie Rules Football.

Injuries to Nick Papadopoulos and star striker Nick Tsaltas who has only played two games this season have the mighty Sharks biting their teeth.

Bulleen Lions have been the quiet achievers sitting in fifth position and gradually climbing the table.

The wealth of talent at the Lions den has veteran Robert Krajacic occupying the bench. George Slifkas, Robert Stojcevski, Gerry McAleer and Angie Goutzioulis have so far been valuable buys.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE TOP GOALSCORERS

12	Despotovski (Melbourne)
8	Nilo (Sunshine)
6	Zinni (Thomastown)
5	D. Grella (Springvale)
	Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
4	Tsolakis (Heidelberg)
	White (Bulleen)
	Becvinovski (Altona)
	Todorovski (Bentleigh)
	Rusmir (Altona)
3	Vlahos (Melbourne)
	Micheil (Bentleigh)
	Karl (St Albans)
	Georgopoulos (Altona)
	Petrakos (Box Hill)
	Cassar (Sunshine)
	Fitzpatrick (North Geelong)
	Ujgunovski (Fawkner)
2	Ketsakidis (Green Gully)
	Necseski (Green Gully)
	Suric (Green Gully)
	Dimovski (North Geelong)
	Duric (Port Melbourne)
	Tsaltas (Port Melbourne)
	Swigos (Port Melbourne)
	Chalmers (Port Melbourne)
	Guscic (Box Hill)
	Koutos (Melbourne)
	Karapatsos (Melbourne)
	S. Markovski (Sunshine)
	McAleer (Bulleen)
	Lutton (Bentleigh)
	Radecki (Altona)
	Tricarico (Thomastown)
	Lancaster (Springvale)
	Babic (Green Gully)
	M. Colina (St Albans)
1	Caffrey (Bentleigh)
	Kalimeris (Bentleigh)
	Charalambous (Bentleigh)
	Bell (Port Melbourne)
	Psarros (Port Melbourne)
	Palamaras (Port Melbourne)
	Obradovic (Melbourne)
	Hasler (Melbourne)
	Azzopardi (Green Gully)
	Crodden (Green Gully)
	Gnjidic (Thomastown)
	Lazarevski (Thomastown)
	Lingurovski (Thomastown)
	Cuculevski (Thomastown)
	T. Markovski (Altona)
	Velkovski (Altona)
	Emsovski (Altona)
	Tsiakos (Bulleen)
	Lenetis (Bulleen)
	Giaccherini (Bulleen)
	Liparotti (Bulleen)
	Cosic (North Geelong)
	A. Skoko (North Geelong)
	John Didulica (Nth Geelong)
	Ferla (Sunshine)
	Field (Sunshine)
	Chirico (Box Hill)
	Frezzi (Box Hill)
	A. Roodhouse (Box Hill)
	Piemonte (Springvale)
	Lettieri (Springvale)
	V. De La Plaza (Springvale)
	Usjebirka (St Albans)
	Magdic (St Albans)
	I. Rados (St Albans)
	I. Colina (St Albans)
	Giordano (Fawkner)
	Schipano (Fawkner)
	Vassiliadis (Fawkner)
	L. Osman (Albion)
	Lucchesi (Albion)
	Cooper (Sunshine)
	Bogoevski (Altona)
	McMinimee (Springvale)
	Argyriou (Port Melbourne)
	Slifkas (Bulleen)
	Collins (Albion)
	Genovesi (Green Gully)
	Trupkovic (North Geelong)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE PLAYER OF THE YEAR VOTES UPDATED AS AT 3.4.96

15	Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
10	Despotovski (Melbourne)
	Cassar (Sunshine)
9	Nilo (Sunshine)
8	Keogh (Box Hill)
	White (Bulleen)
7	Karapatsos (Melbourne)
	Georgiadis (Melbourne)
	Grbac (Bulleen)
	Emsovski (Altona)
	Cosic (North Geelong)
	T. Markovski (Altona)
6	Deak (North Geelong)
	Micheil (Bentleigh)
	Schipano (Fawkner)
	D. Grella (Springvale)
	Rusmir (Altona)
	Bell (Port Melbourne)
5	Tsaltas (Port Melbourne)
	Daglaras (Sunshine)
	Douglas (Green Gully)
	M. Colina (St Albans)
	Hasler (Melbourne)
	Stojcevski (Bulleen)
	Ngata (Thomastown)
4	Ferla (Sunshine)
	Della Rocca (Thomastown)
	Pansino (Box Hill)
	McAleer (Bulleen)
	Gagula (St Albans)
	I. Colina (St Albans)
	Vlahos (Melbourne)
	Laumets (Bentleigh)
	Tsolakis (Melbourne)
3	Aretis (Sunshine)
	McGrath (Altona)
	Becvinovski (Altona)
	Atanasovski (Altona)
	Zinni (Thomastown)
	Banini (Thomastown)
	Kules (North Geelong)
	Roodhouse (Box Hill)
	Dargicevic (Sunshine)
	Karl (St Albans)
	Drakos (Bentleigh)
	Lancaster (Springvale)
	McMinimee (Springvale)
	Medved (North Geelong)
	Azzopardi (Green Gully)
	Slifkas (Bulleen)
	Necseski (Green Gully)
	Runjic (Altona)
	Swigos (Port Melbourne)
2	Argyriou (Port Melbourne)
	Brian (Albion)
	Dal Ben (Box Hill)
	Duric (Port Melbourne)
	J. Constantinou (Bentleigh)
	Emmanuele (Thomastown)
	John Didulica (Nth Geelong)
	Jolic (St Albans)
	Koutos (Melbourne)
	Geri (Albion)
	Ketsakidis (Green Gully)
	Z. Mrkovski (Green Gully)
	Milanovic (St Albans)
	Palamaras (Pt Melbourne)
	Radecki (Altona)
	Tasevski (Altona)
	Todorovski (Bentleigh)
	Suric (Green Gully)
1	Branov (Fawkner)
	Collins (Albion)
	V. De La Plaza (Springvale)
	Kanesoulis (Sunshine)
	Mazzini (Thomastown)
	Tricarico (Thomastown)
	Lazarevski (Thomastown)
	Lucchesi (Albion)
	Lutton (Bentleigh)
	Liparotti (Bulleen)
	Tsiakos (Bulleen)
	Josip Didulica (N Geelong)
	M. Trupkovic (Nth Geelong)
	S. Markovski (Sunshine)
	Magdic (St Albans)
	Mikulic (St Albans)
	Vassiliadis (Fawkner)
	Razzi (Springvale)
	Fak (Melbourne)
	Gotis (Port Melbourne)
	Babic (Green Gully)



RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

**SUNDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE**

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 4&5

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

**SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE**

◆ Premier League
◆ State League
Divisions
1 to 3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

0055 38898

**SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE**

◆ State League
Division 4
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 1-3

(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



Selby a pioneer of the sport

Connie Selby (nee Byrnes), just appointed as the new ITC Coach for NSW, was a prominent player in the fledgling days of the sport here in Australia, going on to captain Australia's first ever team in 1978.

Connie's football career is a series of firsts. She was a member of the NSW State Team at AWSA's inaugural National Championship in 1974. Today she holds the distinction of being the only player (male or female) to captain three different States — NSW, NT and Queensland — at National Championships, and also captain her country.

She contested eight Nationals in all, winning five championship medals and three runners-up.

Connie also played 'international' soccer before Australian representative teams were formed, travelling to Hong Kong in 1975 as a guest player with what was essentially the St

George club to compete in the Asian Cup. A successful tournament saw her named in the 'All Stars' lineup.

Three years later, Australia's first official National team came into being, its introduction into world football being participation in the first World Women's Invitational Tournament in Taiwan.

The occasion holds fond memories for Connie. "The highlight of my career was firstly being named in the Australian team, and then also named as captain.

"Then walking down the tunnel for that first international, the crowd and everything was unbelievable. It was pretty scary — we didn't know what to expect that very first time." Connie went on to be named "Miss Australia" by the media contingent.

Connie only ended up doing that one tour initially, these being the days when the team only played once a year at the most. "Then every time

they toured, I fell pregnant," she said.

Connie had to wait until 1983 to play for Australia again on its tour of Hawaii. It was to be her last representation, a knee injury on tour effectively ending her playing career.

The game has changed enormously from those early days. "It's so much different now, which is great for the players," said Connie.

"They are better catered for financially — it's not such a burden on them. We paid for everything on tour, and I've said to my husband if we'd put all that money together, we'd have been able to buy three houses. But that's part of life and enjoying the sport."

Connie's husband is none other than Jim Selby, Australia's first women's National Coach, retaining that position until 1985.

Jim was also Connie's first coach, when at age 16 a friend asked her to play because the team was short in numbers.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION



Her mum, initially of the opinion that soccer was not a suitable game for girls, did not approve, Connie resorting to climbing out the bedroom window to go to training. That first club was Ingleburn RSL in Sydney.

Connie's coaching career has become just as successful as her days on the pitch. Resident in Queensland for the past 15 years, she has coached representative teams from Bundaberg, Gold Coast, and Brisbane.

Connie has not yet coached a State team, but on the national scene has already made her mark.

Coaching the young Australia Green side on the

Gold Coast in a tournament also involving Russia, the side defeated the more favoured Australia Gold. Connie has also been Assistant Coach to Tom Sermanni in Japan, as well as the Australian Junior and Youth teams.

She brings to NSW a wealth of experience, along with Jim having played a huge part in the success of the renowned Queensland Academy of Sport program. "Jim first started the QAS program in October '92 and I assisted before then gaining a 12-month AIS coaching scholarship. Then Jim left, and I virtually ran the program for around 18 months until Greg Brown came in."

The QAS has an impressive record, the majority of the players developed by the Selbys going on to represent Australia at some level.

Current National Team players include Louise McMurtrie and Tammie Thornton, the latter having moved down from Cairns

to train at the Academy. "I think I've had a very big hand in developing these players to getting them where they want."

Connie is excited about her new appointment. "I think it's fantastic. I've had a lot of support from the QAS. I talked to Wilma Shakespear (QAS Director) about it — she's so pleased I've been asked to take on the job. It's where I started my career and it's great to go back and into such a high position."

The move south has come at a most opportune time, husband Jim already in Sydney since last December when he was appointed Soccer Australia's National Coaching and Development Manager.

"We were coming down anyway at the end of the year," said Connie of herself, son James 16, David 12 and Melinda 8.

"We had just been waiting for the kids to finish school, but if I don't take this opportunity now, it may never come by again." James will remain

in Queensland for now to finish Year 12.

"It'll be a challenge, as most good positions are," said Connie of the job ahead where she will start on April 22. "I think the players are there to succeed at the highest level and I know quite a few of them."

"I will be going in there fresh, not having been there for 16 years. Hopefully I will bring some new ideas, as well as looking at the ideas already in use. Naturally I will have a good talk with Leigh Wardell (Assistant Coach) to see where things are at and work it out from there."

"My aim is to develop players to their potential, to play at the highest level," she added. "Also to get people to look at women's soccer differently — make them realise it's not kick and giggle. The main objective is to get players in to National teams. I think if you can do that, you're doing alright as a coach."

Auckland

M-Wey Tri-Series

March '96

Australia v Korea



Joanne Peters on the ball for Australia.



Australian captain Sarah Cooper accepts the winner's trophy from Josephine King, secretary of Oceania Confederation.



Australian team.



Hair-raising Sunni Hughes up against Kiwi veteran Maureen Jacobson.

ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	28	17	9	2	46	17	60
Juventus	28	16	6	6	49	26	54
Fiorentina	28	15	8	5	49	29	53
Inter	28	13	8	7	39	23	47
Parma	28	12	10	6	36	26	46
Roma	28	12	9	7	37	27	45
Lazio	28	12	7	9	51	33	43
Sampdoria	28	11	8	9	46	41	41
Vicenza	28	11	8	9	30	30	41
Udinese	28	9	7	12	33	39	34
Cagliari	28	9	7	12	28	40	34
Atalanta	28	9	6	13	30	43	33
Napoli	28	7	11	10	23	34	32
Piacenza	28	7	8	13	26	46	29
Cremonese	28	5	10	13	34	44	25
Torino	28	5	10	13	26	40	25
Bari	28	5	7	16	38	59	22
Padova	28	6	3	19	34	58	21

RESULTS

SERIE A

Cagliari.....0	Piacenza.....0
Cremonese.....2	Inter.....4
Fiorentina.....6	Padova.....4
Milan.....0	Lazio.....0
Parma.....1	Napoli.....0
Roma.....2	Udinese.....1
Sampdoria.....2	Bari.....0
Torino.....1	Juventus.....2
Vicenza.....1	Atalanta.....0

President in trouble

The Italian soccer federation said last week it was taking disciplinary action against Inter president Massimo Moratti for criticising a referee after his team's 2-1 defeat by Fiorentina on March 31.

"After six consecutive wins, with so many players absent and having above all to play against the referee and linesmen as well, losing is to be expected," he was quoted as saying following Inter's first home defeat of the season.

The federation said in a statement that Moratti's behaviour had been reported to its federal court.

Inter's vice-president Giuseppe Prisco was also reported to the league authorities for making similar comments to the media and the club could face disciplinary measures.

STOP PRESS

SBS Television will present exclusive live coverage of the European Cup semi-final Second Leg between Ajax Amsterdam and Panathinaikos on Thursday, April 18 at 2.15am (Perth), 3.45am (Adelaide, Darwin) and 4.15am (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane).

Panathinaikos, a Greek club established in 1908 and a comparative minnow of world soccer, caused an absolute sensation when it defeated world club champions Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 in their semi-final first leg clash. To make the victory even more impressive, Panathinaikos won the match at Ajax's De Meer Stadium.

The return leg will see the two teams battle it out in Panathinaikos' fiercely patriotic venue in Athens. The Olympic Stadium, which has hosted many memorable European Cup finals, should be awash with the green and white colours of the beloved, giant slaying local side.

Ajax, the Dutch masters who have managed to leave all in their wake in the European Champions' League will have to regain their swash-buckling form to overcome an adversary intent on a fairytale ending.

Ten goals in Florence thriller

Gianluca Vialli's first league goal in three months gave Juventus a 2-1 victory over local rival Torino last Saturday as the Italian champion came from behind to keep alive its faint hopes of catching league leader Milan.

With Serie A's pacesetter slipping to a 0-0 draw at home to Lazio, for whom Diego Fuser hit the bar, Juve trail a visibly flagging Milan by six points with six matches to play.

Ruggiero Rizzitelli's perfectly-timed run and header gave Torino a 32nd minute lead against the run of play.

Straight after the break, Juve levelled the scores when the hapless Sean Sogliano turned Gianluca Pessotto's cross into his own net, before, in the 65th minute, Vialli's crisp, diagonal shot stretched his side's unbeaten run to eight matches.

Torino's defeat, which leaves the famous club third from bottom, was further darkened when their captain Paolo Cristallini was sent-off.

Fiorentina remain third after a thrilling 6-4 victory over lowly Padova, in which Argentine Gabriel Batistuta scored twice, taking his total for the season to 18, equal highest in Serie A together with Bari's Igor Protti and Lazio's Giuseppe Signori.

After 28 matches, Milan



lead Serie A with 60 points, ahead of Juventus on 54 and Fiorentina on 53.

England's Paul Ince scored his first-ever goal in Serie A — a first-time, full-blooded shot from the edge of the penalty area — to set fourth-placed Inter on the way to a 4-2 victory at lowly Cremonese.

Juve's revival was sparked by coach Marcello Lippi's decision to bring on Alessandro Del Piero and Fabrizio Ravanelli — the Italy striker's first appearance since suffering a leg injury last month.

Del Piero promptly laid off a superb first-time pass for Vialli and in one smooth movement, the veteran striker ran over the ball, swivelled and shot past Massimiliano Caniato.

Following Vialli's strike, the referee was forced to suspend the match for two minutes as angry Torino fans threw fireworks on to the pitch.

At the San Siro, Milan suffered the rare experience of spending the first 20 minutes pinned in its own



Paul Ince: Put away his first Serie A goal to help Inter to a 4-2 win.

half as Lazio's attacking play saw Fuser and Pierluigi Casiraghi narrowly miss the target.

The league leader only tested Luca Marchegiani in the 26th minute when the goalkeeper's poor handling left Marco Simone with an open goal. But the striker missed from four metres.

In the 49th minute, Lazio was unlucky not to go ahead when Fuser's freekick from wide on the left curled across the penalty area and over Sebastiano Rossi only to rebound off the bar.

Fiorentina looked like coasting to victory when they raced into a three-goal lead in 49 minutes with goals from Francesco Baiano,

Anselmo Robbiati and the irrepressible Batistuta.

But Nicola Amoruso pulled a goal-back in the 55th minute as bottom-of-the-table Padova showed signs of the fighting spirit that last season saw them hang-on to their first division life in an end of season play-off with Genoa.

Giacomo Banchelli restored Fiorentina's three-goal lead when Adriano Bonaiuti failed to hold Rui Costa's snapshot only for Croat Goran Vlaovic, with two superb strikes in two minutes, to make the score 4-3.

It took Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa and Batistuta — from the

penalty spot — to finally put the match beyond Padova's reach although Amoruso gave a hint of respectability to the scoreline with his side's fourth in the dying seconds.

Ince's superb strike for Inter was wiped out straight after the break by Andrea Tentoni's header. Argentine Javier Zanetti restored the visitors' lead, breaking from midfield to beat three defenders and score.

Alessandro Pistone put Inter 3-1 up before Tentoni ensured a nail-biting finale with an opportunist second in the 86th. The Milan side finally clinched its seventh success in eight matches with Marco Branca's latest minute effort.



Gabriel Batistuta: Got a brace in Fiorentina's six goal sensation.

EUROPEAN CUP

SEMI FINALS - FIRST LEG

JUVENTUS 2 NANTES 0

Striker Gianluca Vialli scored his first European Cup goal of the season as Juventus beat 10-man Nantes of France 2-0 to stay on course for the final in Rome.

Nantes were reduced to 10 men on the stroke of half-time when midfielder Bruno Carotti was sent off for a second bookable offence. Defender Serge Le Dizet will also miss the home leg after picking up a second half booking.

Vialli, widely expected to leave the Turin team when his contract expires at the end of the season, broke the ice with a close-range glancing shot in the 50th

minute after Pietro Vierchowod fired the ball into the area.

Yugoslav midfielder Vladimir Jugovic made it 2-0 in the 66th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the area. The match was former champions Juventus's sixth European Cup semi-final but their first meeting with Nantes.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi had warned his team, which won the title in 1985, not to underestimate the French side.

His words seemed wise during the first half in which Juventus, missing suspended French midfielder Didier Deschamps and injured striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, had the upper hand but both teams had chances to score.

In Turin: Juventus (Italy) 2 Nantes (France) 0 (0-0)
Scorers: Gianluca Vialli (50), Vladimir Jugovic (66)
Attendance: 55,000
In Amsterdam: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0 Panathinaikos (Greece) 1 (Half-time 0-0)
Scorer: Krzysztof Warzycha (87)
Attendance: 42,000

Nantes striker Nicolas Oudec, scorer of five goals in the competition so far, had a shot parried in the ninth minute while Juventus forward Michele Padovano was perfectly positioned in the 30th minute but headed over the bar.

Juventus captain Vialli had the best chance of the first half with a bicycle kick that would have been a spectacular goal had Dominique Casagrande not made an equally fine save.

Oudec had the ball in the back of the net in the 40th minute but the shot was ruled offside.

Carotti was then sent off for a foul on Padovano after picking up an early yellow card.

"We had to speed things up a bit by taking risks in the second half, and we got the goals," said Lippi, who started off with a determined attacking line-up by moving defender Gianluca Pessotto up into midfield.

"I had hoped for a third goal and we could have got it at the end," the coach added.

Nantes coach Jean-Claude Suaudeau was involved in a minor incident with Lippi after the match when he angered the Italian by seemingly refusing to shake his outstretched hand.

"We had a good first half but in the second there was nothing 10 men could do against 11," he said. "The result was fair but we can make it up on the home leg."

AJAX 0 PANATHINAIKOS 1

Panathinaikos beat holders Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 with a late goal of rare class.

The Greek champions successfully snuffed out wave after wave of Ajax attacks and stole a precious away win with a goal by Polish striker Krzysztof Warzycha four minutes from time.

Mercurial winger Georgios Donis, reportedly watched by English Premier League leaders Manchester United, made a surging 30-metre solo run before splitting the Ajax defence.

Warzycha lofted the ball over Edwin van der Sar for his sixth goal of the campaign, ending Ajax's record 19-game unbeaten run in Europe's premier competition.

The late win bore out Panathinaikos coach Juan Ramon Rocha's pre-match prophecy of a "rendezvous with history."

The defeat was the Amsterdam club's first in European competition since March 16, 1994, when they went down to Parma of Italy in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup.

The Greek side are now in pole position to reach their first final for 25 years. They were beaten in the 1971 final at Wembley — 2-0 by Ajax.

The Dutch league leaders, who have lost only once in six semi-finals, created enough chances to have won comfortably, but Patrick Kluijver and Nwankwo Kanu were consistently off target.

Panathinaikos matched Ajax for endeavour and were well-organised at the back, inventive in midfield and fast on the break.

Ajax, back at full strength but for the injured Marc Overmars, began brightly, with Finn Jari Litmanen going close early on. But the Greek defence soon settled



Krzysztof Warzycha: Being watched by Man. United as he starred in Amsterdam for Panathinaikos.

to their task.

With Donis threatening on the right and Argentine midfielder Juan Borelli teasing in the middle, the two sides were evenly matched, although the Dutch side had most of the possession and territorial advantage.

Kanu put the two best chances of the first half agonisingly wide of Jozef Wandzik's upright, while Finidi George and Ronald de Boer kept up a constant

barrage of crosses. But the Panathinaikos defence held out.

Midway through the second half substitute Georgios H. Georghiadis was denied a breakaway goal by an alert Van der Sar who spread himself to smother the low shot.

In the end it was fitting that the Greek side came away with the spoils from the last night of European action at Amsterdam's

Olympic Stadium before its demolition.

Georgios S. Georgiadis was shown his second yellow card of the competition and will miss the return leg in two weeks.

Ajax skipper Danny Blind, playing his 400th game for the club, was philosophical in defeat.

"We tried everything but it was not on...there (Athens) it will be very difficult," he said.



Gianluca Vialli: Opened the scoring for Juventus in the 50th minute against Nantes.

CUP WINNERS CUP

SEMI FINALS - FIRST LEG

LA CORUNA 0 PARIS ST GERMAIN 1

A superb 89th minute strike by substitute Youri Djorkaeff gave Paris St Germain a 1-0 semi-finals victory over Deportivo La Coruna last week.

Djorkaeff picked up the ball in midfield, found space and blasted home the winner from 25 metres.

The goal was the high point of a poor game in which both sides wasted the rest of the few chances they had managed to create.

Deportivo's best chance fell to another substitute, Aitor Begiristain, who hit the bar in the 74th minute after pouncing on a ball that PSG goalkeeper Bernard Lama had been unable to hold.

Deportivo's other chances fell to Brazilian World Cup striker Bebeto and Fran Gonzalez.

Bebeto decided to pass rather than running with a fine through ball from Donato after only two minutes while Gonzalez was foiled by Lama just after the break.

PSG's Pascal Louma and Patrice Loko each forced saves out of Deportivo goalkeeper

In Rotterdam: Feyenoord (Netherlands) 1 Rapid Vienna (Austria) 1
Scorers: Feyenoord: Ronald Koeman (53 pen) Rapid Vienna: Carsten Janker (67)
In La Coruna: Deportivo La Coruna (Spain) 0 Paris St Germain (France) 1
Scorer: Youri Djorkaeff (89)
Crowd: 29,000

Paco Liano in successive minutes of the second half of a game that had appeared doomed to end in a goal-less draw.

The result means Deportivo — which knocked out holder Real Zaragoza in the quarter-finals — will have to score at least once in the return leg in Paris to have any chance of keeping the

trophy in Spain.

PSG has a knack of beating Spanish sides, having defeated Real Madrid twice and Barcelona once in European competitions over the past five years.

La Coruna's Fran Gonzalez: His attempt at goal was foiled by PSG keeper Bernard Lama.



**SLAVIA
PRAGUE 0
BORDEAUX 1**

Dugarry, who struck twice in Bordeaux's upset quarter-final victory over AC Milan, was unmarked in the middle of the box when he scored in the seventh minute from a cross by Zinedine Zidane, who had swept past

Barcelona — Oscar Garcia (15),
Gheorghe Hagi (77)
Attendance: 63,000
In Prague: Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 0
Bordeaux (France) 1 (0-1)
Scorer — Christophe Dugarry (7)
Attendance: 17,523

The away win puts the French side, who qualified for the UEFA Cup through the Inter-Toto Cup, in the driving seat for the second leg in France in two weeks.

Dugarry came close to increasing Bordeaux's lead in the first half, hitting the crossbar once and also forcing a number of saves from Slavia 'keeper Jan Stejskal.

Slavia striker Karel Poborsky capped a fine run 12 minutes from time by slipping the ball past Bordeaux goalkeeper Gaetan Huard.

The home side was weakened by the absence of suspended defenders Jan Suchoparek and Martin Penicka. The inexperienced Martin Hysky was substituted after only 29 minutes, but by then the damage had been done.

Slavia's Frantisek Cipro said, "We left Zidane and Dugarry alone and paid by going down 1-0 very early and that was the deciding factor."

"But we have played very well up to now in the cup games and all is not lost. We just have to play hard again and then see."

**BAYERN
MUNICH 2
BARCELONA 2**

In an exciting semi-final first leg played in sleet and freezing temperatures, Hagi took advantage of a calamitous back pass from Bayern's German international defender Markus Babel to fire home with his left foot in the 77th minute.

Bayern, bidding for their first European trophy for 20 years, had looked in real trouble after Oscar played a one-two with Jose Maria Bakero through the middle of their defence and hit the ball into the right-hand corner.

Hagi's second away goal for Barcelona, however, will make life very difficult for the Germans in the second leg in Spain in two weeks.

After just seven minutes on the pitch half time substitute, Witeczek picked up a pass from midfielder Christian Nerlinger on the left-hand side of the area and fired a low shot into the right-hand corner.

Five minutes later Scholl found space on the left-



Gheorghe Hagi: His opportunistic goal levelled the scores in Munich.

Bayern turned up the pressure after that and looked capable of stretching their lead.

But Hagi pounced on Babbel's poor pass across the middle of the pitch, outpaced defender Thomas

"We were hit badly by that early goal and didn't really recover until the second half," Bayern coach Otto Rehhagel said.

"We are going to have to play better than we did in the first half in front of 90,000 fans in Barcelona. Barcelona played some great one-touch football tonight... We still have a

Barcelona boss Johan Cruyff, returning to the ground on which he played for the Netherlands in the 1974 World Cup Final, said he was happy with the way Barcelona had played.

"Both teams took a lot of risks," Cruyff said. "Bayern played some superb football in the second half and I am pleased with the way we played."



Bayern Munich's Markus Babel: His mistake led to Barcelona's equaliser.

CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS CUP WINNERS

**FEYENOORD 1
RAPID
VIENNA 1**

Jancker, who scored twice against Dynamo Moscow in the quarter-finals, caught Feyenoord's international goalkeeper Ed de Goey on the wrong foot as he headed home from close range in the 67th minute.

Feyenoord, by far the stronger side, had gone in

Rapid, who lost to England's Everton in the 1985 Cup Winners' Cup final, looked in danger of being overwhelmed in the first 25 minutes as Feyenoord attacked at speed against the Austrian side.

But despite a dozen chances, with winger Giovanni van Bronckhorst slightly off target three times, and forcing eight corners to none, the home side failed to score.

The Rotterdam defence made errors as the first half wore on and de Goey did well to parry a shot from

The best chance in the first half fell to Koeman three minutes into injury time but the former international failed to get hold of his shot firmly after Sweden team mate Henryk Larsson ran across his path.

Feyenoord earned a penalty in the 53rd minute when veteran Bulgarian defender Trifon Ivanov fouled Vos. Koeman fired the spot-kick to the left of goalkeeper Michael Konsel.

The Dutch team stepped up the pace in search of a second goal but Rapid deflated them with a goal on a rare counter-attack.

A cross by Christian Stumpf, which seemed to elude everybody, was headed

Disappointed Feyenoord coach Arie Haan saw his team's chances of reaching next month's final in Brussels recede but still praised his side.

"We played well but the equaliser was an anticlimax. After it was 1-1 the players wanted to press on but did not have faith anymore," he said.

Rapid coach Ernst Dokupil said: "At the beginning we were overwhelmed but in the last part we got more grip on the match."

Ronald Koeman: Put Feyenoord ahead with a 53rd minute penalty



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	2	Leeds	1
Chelsea	1	Aston Villa	2
Coventry	1	Liverpool	0
Everton	3	Bolton	0
Manchester City	2	Manchester Utd	3
Newcastle	2	QPR	1
Nottingham Forest	2	Tottenham	1
Southampton	1	Blackburn	0
West Ham	1	Wimbledon	1
Middlesbrough	3	Sheffield Wed	1

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley	0	Sunderland	1
Birmingham	3	Port Vale	1
Crystal Palace	0	Leicester	1
Huddersfield	3	Southend	1
Ipswich	1	Reading	2
Oldham	0	Derby	1
Sheffield Utd	2	Wolverhampton	1
Stoke	1	Grimsby	2
Tranmere	1	Norwich	1
Watford	1	Portsmouth	2
West Bromwich	1	Millwall	0
Charlton	1	Luton	1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Brentford	2	Crewe	1
Bristol Rovers	1	Brighton	0
Burnley	2	Bradford	3
Carlisle	4	Bournemouth	0
Chesterfield	1	Stockport	2
Hull	4	Wycombe	2
Oxford	1	Blackpool	0
Rotherham	2	Shrewsbury	2
Swansea	1	Wrexham	3
Swindon	1	Notts County	0
Walsall	2	Bristol City	1
York	3	Peterborough	1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Barnet	2	Northampton	0
Bury	0	Mansfield	2
Cambridge	2	Rochdale	1
Chester	5	Scarborough	0
Colchester	1	Cardiff	0
Gillingham	2	Hartlepool	0
Hereford	1	Fulham	0
Lincoln	0	Exeter	1
Plymouth	0	Darlington	1
Preston	1	Doncaster	0
Scunthorpe	1	Torquay	0
Wigan	1	Leyton Orient	0

FA CUP SEMI-FINAL

Aberdeen	1	Hearts	2
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SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Falkirk	2	Raith	3
Motherwell	3	Hibernian	0

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrieonians	1	St Johnstone	3
Dundee Utd	6	Dumbarton	1
Dunfermline	1	Hamilton	3
Greenock Morton	0	Clydebank	0
St Mirren	2	Dundee	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Ayr	3	Queen of the South	0
East Fife	0	Berwick	0
Montrose	1	Stenhousemuir	3
Stirling	1	Forfar	0
Stranraer	2	Clyde	2

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Albion	0	Brechin	0
Alloa	0	Queen's Park	1
Arbroath	0	Cowdenbeath	0
Caledonian	0	East Stirling	3
Livingston	2	Ross County	1

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester Utd	33	21	7	5	62	32	70
Newcastle	32	21	4	7	60	33	67
Liverpool	33	18	8	7	64	31	62
Aston Villa	33	17	8	8	48	31	59
Arsenal	33	16	9	8	46	29	57
Everton	34	15	9	10	56	38	54
Tottenham	33	15	9	9	44	34	54
Nottingham Forest	32	13	11	8	42	42	50
Blackburn	33	14	6	13	47	40	48
West Ham	33	13	7	13	40	45	46
Chelsea	33	11	12	10	38	37	45
Leeds	32	12	6	14	37	45	42
Middlesbrough	34	11	9	14	33	43	42

Sheffield Wed	33	9	8	16	44	54	35
Wimbledon	33	8	10	15	48	64	34
Southampton	33	7	10	16	30	47	31
Manchester City	34	7	10	17	29	53	31
Coventry	33	6	12	15	39	59	30
QPR	34	7	6	21	32	52	27
Bolton	34	7	5	22	36	66	26

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Sunderland	40	21	13	6	56	31	76
Derby	41	19	14	8	60	44	71
Crystal Palace	41	17	15	9	60	45	66
Charlton	39	16	15	8	53	42	63
Ipswich	39	16	11	12	70	57	59
Huddersfield	40	16	11	13	56	51	59
Leicester	40	15	13	12	56	56	58
Stoke	39	15	12	12	51	43	57
Birmingham	40	14	12	14	55	53	54
Southend	41	14	12	15	48	55	54
Barnsley	40	13	14	13	53	60	53
Port Vale	38	13	13	12	49	50	52
Wolverhampton	40	13	12	15	53	54	51
Sheffield Utd	41	13	12	16	49	52	51
Grimsby	39	13	12	14	46	54	51
Norwich	41	12	14	15	52	49	50
Tranmere	39	12	13	14	52	49	49
Portsmouth	41	12	12	17	58	64	48
West Bromwich	40	13	9	18	49	61	48
Millwall	41	12	12	17	39	56	48
Reading	39	10	16	13	46	53	46
Oldham	39	10	12	17	46	46	42
Luton	39	10	11	18	35	51	41
Watford	39	6	16	17	44	60	34

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Swindon	38	22	12	4	60	28	78
Blackpool	41	22	11	8	61	34	77
Crewe	40	20	7	13	71	50	67
Oxford	40	19	10	11	58	37	67
Notts County	39	18	12	9	51	33	66
Chesterfield	38	18	9	11	50	42	63
Stockport	41	17	11	13	56	45	62
Bristol Rovers	40	18	8	14	51	52	62
Bradford	40	18	61	16	59	61	60
Wrexham	40	14	15	11	63	50	57
Wycombe	40	14	14	12	56	50	56
Bristol City	41	14	13	14	48	51	55
Walsall	38	14	10	14	47	3	52
Brentford	41	13	12	16	38	45	51
Bournemouth	41	14	8	19	44	65	50
Peterborough	40	12	12	16	54	56	48
Shrewsbury	40	12	12	16	52	57	48
Rotherham	40	11	13	16	44	55	46
York	39	11	12	16	52	62	45
Burnley	38	11	11	16	48	60	44
Carlisle	40	10	13	17	51	62	43
Swansea	41	8	14	19	37	70	38
Brighton	40	8	10	22	40	60	34
Hull	40	5	15	20	32	62	30

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Preston	40	20	16	4	71	33	76
Gillingham	40	19	14	7	44	18	71
Bury	40	18	12	10	57	42	66
Wigan	41	19	9	13	57	49	66
Darlington	40	17	15	8	48	37	66
Chester	40	16	15	9	66	44	63
Plymouth	40	17	12	11	56	45	63
Colchester	40	16	15	9	52	43	63
Barnet	41	15	15	11	50	40	60
Hereford	38	14	14	10	47	39	56
Northampton	40	15	11	14	42	39	56
Exeter	41	13	16	12	43	45	55
Scunthorpe	39	14	10	15	55	51	52
Doncaster	40	14	9	17	42	53	51
Rochdale	40	13	11	16	52	50	50
Mansfield	39	10	18	11	46	54	48
Hartlepool	40	11	13	16	41	51	46
Fulham	41	10	15	16	52	58	45
Lincoln	41	11	12	18	48	67	45
Leyton Orient	41	12	9	20	39	53	45
Cambridge	40	11	10	19	52	66	43
Cardiff	41	10	10	21	36	56	40
Scarborough	41	7	16	18	35	57	37
Torquay	40	5	13	22	29	70	28

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE

— April 7 —

Division A

Red Star	1	Vojvodina	0
Proleter	0	Radnicki (N)	1

Mladost (L)	3	Rad	1
Becej	0	Partizan	0

TABLE

Partizan	12	8	2	2	30	12	44
Red Star	12	6	3	3	15	9	37
Vojvodina	12	5	5	2	21	10	33
Becej	12	6	5	1	14	11	31
Proleter	12	5	3	4	18	17	24
Cukaricki	12	2	6	4	12	12	23
Radnicki (N)	12	3	4	5	11	21	22
Mladost (L)	12	4	2	6	15	17	21
Rad	12	2	4	6	11	16	18
Sloboda	12	1	2	9	6	28	10

Division B

Zemun	1	Obilic	0
Hajduk	3	Mladost (BJ)	0
Loznica	1	Buducnost	1
Napredak	0	Borac	1
Radnicki (B)	2	OFK Beograd	3

TABLE

Zemun	11	7	3	1	17	5	31
Borac	11	8	1	2	19	7	27
Hajduk	11	5	3	3	13	11	24
Buducnost	11	4	4	3	10	10	19
Loznica	11	5	1	5	14	12	18
Napredak	11	4	3	4	11	11	18
Mladost (BJ)	11	4	1	6	14	18	17
OFK Beograd	11	3	2	6	11	18	15
Obilic	11	3	1	7	9	16	15
Radnicki (B)	11	1	3	7	7	16	13

Note: Teams began the Spring season with bonus points awarded at the end of the Autumn season of the 1995-96 championships.

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

— April 7 —

Athletic Bilbao	3	Salamanca	1
Compostela	0	Tenerife	2
Valencia	1	Albacete	0
Real Madrid	0	Sporting Gijon	1
Rayo Vallecano	0	Sevilla	0
Real Valladolid	2	Deportivo Coruna	2
Merida	2	Celta Vigo	0
Real Betis	2	Racing Santander	2
Barcelona	1	Real Sociedad	0
Real Oviedo	1	Atletico Madrid	1
Real Zaragoza	1	Espanyol	1

TABLE

Atletico Madrid	35	22	7	6	61	24	73
Barcelona	35	20	10	5	60	29	70
Valencia	35	21	4	10	65	41	67
Espanyol	35	16	12	7	48	29	60
Real Betis	35	15	13	7	54	41	58
Tenerife	35	16	10	9	59	59	58

Real Madrid	35	15	9	11	63	48	54
Compostela	35	16	6	13	42	46	54
Deportivo Coruna	35	13	12	10	55	33	51
Real Sociedad	35	13	11	11	43	43	50
Celta Vigo	35	10	12	13	38	43	42
Racing Santander	35	10	12	13	39	54	42
Oviedo	35	10	11	14	36	47	41
Sporting Gijon	35	11	7	17	44	47	40
Zaragoza	35	9	13	13	41	49	40
Athletic Bilbao	35	9	12	14	34	47	39
Rayo Vallecano	35	10	8	17	38	59	38
Sevilla	35	8	13	14	34	48	37
Valladolid	35	8	12	15	43	53	36
Merida	35	7	12	16	30	51	33
Albacete	35	8	9	18	44	64	33
Salamanca	35	6	9	20	41	68	27

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

TABLE

Rapid Vienna	25	15	5	5	42	25	50
Sturm Graz	24	14	4	6	45	24	46
FC Tirol Innsbruck	25	13	5	7	47	27	44
GAK	25	10	9	6	31	24	39
Austria Vienna	25	10	7	8	30	22	37
LASK	25	9	7	9	22	22	34
SV Ried	25	7	10	8	28	36	31
SV Salzburg	25	6	11	8	34	35	29
Admira/Wacker	25	4	11	10	25	39	23
Vorwaerts Steyr	24	0	3	21	14	64	3

ROMANIAN CUP SEMI-FINALS

— April 3 —

Steaua Bucharest	4	Inter Sibiu	1
Gloria Bistrita	2	National Bucharest	0

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

— April 6 —

Guimaraes	2	Gil Vicente	0
Salgueiros	3	Leca	0
Felgueiras	0	Belenenses	0
Farense	3	Campomaiorense	3
Maritimo	1	Porto	1
Uniao Leiria	1	Boavista	0
Benfica	3	Braga	0
Amadora	1	Sporting	1

TABLE

Porto	29	23	5	1	74	14	74
Benfica	29	19	6	4	49	25	63
Boavista	29	16	6	7	50	25	54
Sporting	29	15	9	5	58	24	54
Guimaraes	29	16	5	8	47	29	53
Belenenses	29	13	8	8	45	26	47
Uniao Leiria	29	13	3	13	33	44	42
Braga	29	11	7	11	37	41	40
Maritimo	29	11	6	12	35	43	39
Salgueiros	29	7	14	8	36	37	35
Gil Vicente	29	8	8	13	27	43	32
Leca	29	8	6	15	25	43	30
Felgueiras	29	7	8	14	26	43	29
Tirsense	29	6	9	14	23	42	27
Amadora	29	5	12	12	28	45	27
Farense	29	8	3	18	30	43	27
Chaves	29	6	7	16	31	48	25
Campomaiorense	29	7	2	20	24	63	23

COPA BRASIL

SECOND ROUND, FIRST LEG

— April 4 —

Atletico Mineiro	1	Palmeiras	2
Fluminense	2	Criciuma	1
Internacional	1	Sao Paulo	1

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

— April 6 —

Groningen	3	Willem II Tilburg	0
Heerenveen	4	Utrecht	2
Twente Enschede	1	Fortuna Sittard	0
NEC Nijmegen	2	RKC Waalwijk	1
PSV Eindhoven	1	Vitesse Arnhem	0

Ajax Amsterdam	2	NAC Breda	0
Volendam	2	GAE Deventer	1

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	29	23	3	3	86	18	72
PSV Eindhoven	29	21	4	4	89	20	67
Feyenoord Rotterdam	29	14	8	7	54	34	50
Twente Enschede	30	14	6	10	44	46	48
NAC Breda	29	12	10	7	51	32	46
Heerenveen	29	12	10	7	56	57	46
Sparta Rotterdam	29	12	9	8	47	46	45
Roda JC Kerkrade	29	11	11	7	37	33	44
Vitesse Arnhem	29	12	7	10	41	40	43
Groningen	30	10	13	7	37	37	43
RKC Waalwijk	29	10	8	11	39	40	38
Willem II Tilburg	29	9	9	11	47	47	36
Fortuna Sittard	30	6	10	14	23	49	28
Volendam	28	6	6	16	21	53	24
De Graafschap D.	29	5	8	16	31	61	23
GAE Deventer	28	5	7	16	38	54	22
NEC Nijmegen	30	5	7	18	30	68	22
Utrecht	29	3	8	18	20	56	17

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

— April 6 —

Club Brugge	0	Cercle Brugge	0
Ghent	1	Anderlecht	3
Standard Liege	1	Mechelen	1
Lierse	2	Seraing	2
Aalst	2	Ekeren	2
Lommel	1	Beveren	3
Molenbeek	3	Sint-Truiden	1
Antwerp	1	Harelbeke	1
Waregem	3	Charleroi	4

TABLE

Anderlecht	25	17	3	5	72	27	54
Charleroi	26	16	4	6	61	45	52
FC Brugge	27	16	4	7	56	29	52
Aalst	28	16	4	8	55	40	52
Standard	28	15	7	6	62	36	52
Mechelen	27	13	6	8	74	54	45
Cercle Brugge	26	13	4	9	62	51	43
Antwerp	26	12	7	7	59	53	43
Lommel	24	11	6	7	56	41	39
Sint-Truiden	26	11	5	10	55	45	38
Lierse	27	10	5	12	60	54	35
Harelbeke	26	10	3	13	52	66	33
Waregem	27	9	4	14	39	63	31
Beveren	27	9	3	15	42	61	30
Ghent	25	7	2	16	39	65	23
Molenbeek	26	4	7	15	37	57	19
Seraing	24	4	5	15	38	72	17
Ekeren	25	0	5	20	24	84	5

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

— April 7 —

AEK	1	Apollon	0
Edessaikos	6	Ethnikos	2
Ionikos	2	Panathinaikos	1
Larissa	4	Panachaiki	1

Olympiakos	1	PAOK	0
Panionios	2	Kalamata	1
Xanthi	4	Aris	0
Athinaikos	0	Paniliakos	0
Iraklis	5	OFI	1

TABLE

AEK	27	21	4	2	73	18	67
Panathinaikos	27	20	5	2	61	18	65
Olympiakos	28	18	7	3	60	24	61
OFI	28	14	4	10	51	46	46
Edessaikos	28	12	7	9	46	45	43
Iraklis	28	11	7	10	40	36	40
Xanthi	28	10	8	10	42	40	38
Athinaikos	27	10	7	10	25	32	37
Ionikos	28	9	8	11	36	43	35
Apollon	28	9	7	12	41	39	34
Kalamata	28	8	10	10	36	41	34
Aris	28	8	8	12	33	43	32
PAOK	28	8	9	11	32	38	30
Paniliakos	28	7	9	12	35	42	30
Panachaiki	28	8	5	15	23	41	29
Panionios	27	7	5	15	28	45	26
Larissa	28	6	7	15	24	53	25
Ethnikos	28	4	3	21	32	71	15

Note: PAOK penalised three points for crowd violence.

HUNGARIAN FIRST DIVISION

— April 7 —

Vac FC-Samsung	0	Gyori	0
DVSC Epona	1	Pecs MFC	0
Bekescsaba	1	Zalaegerszeg TE	1
Kispest-Honved FC	1	Ferencvarosi	0
Vasas Casino Vigado	1	Csepel SC	1
Fehervar '96	3	MTK FC	1
Ujpest TE	0	BVSC Dreher	0
Haladas VFC	1	Stadler FC	0

TABLE

BVSC-Dreher	19	14	4	1	38	16	46
Ferencvarosi	19	13	1	5	35	17	40
Ujpest TE	19	8	7	4	25	16	31
DVSC Epona	19	9	4	6	27	21	31
Vasas C Vigado	19	7	8	4	26	22	29
Kispest-Honved FC	19	7	7	5	28	22	28
Vac FC-Samsung	19	6	8	5	31	27	26
Csepel SC	19	6	7	6	31	30	25
MTK FC	19	6	6	7	38	34	24
Zalaegerszeg Tem	19	6	6	7	29	33	24
Stadler FC	19	4	11	4	25	25	23
Haladas VFC	19	5	5	9	18	31	20
Bekescsaba EFC	19	3	8	8	20	30	17
Fehervar '96 FC	19	5	2	12	22	40	17
Gyori ETO FC	19	3	6	10	19	33	15
Pecs MFC	19	4	2	13	16	31	11

Three penalty points have been deducted from Pecs MFC. The name of parlatat FC has been changed to Fehervar FC.

J-LEAGUE

— April 6 —

Yokohama M	2	Ichihara	1
Kashima	4	Fukuoka	2
Nagoya	2	Urawa	0
Hiratsuka	0	Yokohama F	4
Kashiwa	3	Osaka C	0
Iwata	2	Kawasaki	1
Kyoto	1	Shimizu	5
Osaka G	2	Hiroshima	1

TABLE

Yokohama Flugels	6	6	0	12	0	18
Jubilo Iwata	6	5	1	11	3	16
Kashima Antlers	6	5	1	20	7	15
Nagoya Grampus Eight	6	5	1	14	6	15
Urawa Red Diamonds	6	5	1	11	6	15
Verdy Kawasaki	6	4	2	13	8	12
Shimizu S-Pulse	6	3	3	11	9	10
Gamba Osaka	6	3	3	7	11	9
Bellmare Hiratsuka	6	3	3	7	14	9
JEF United Ichihara	5	2	3	4	4	6
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	6	2	4	5	7	6
Kashiwa Reysol	6	2	4	10	14	6
Yokohama Marinos	6	1	5	5	10	3
Cerezo Osaka	6	1	5	6	12	3
Avispa Fukuoka	6	1	5	6	14	3
Kyoto Purple Sanga	6	0	6	1	18	0

TURKEY'S FIRST DIVISION

— April 1 —

Istanbulspor	5	Kayserispor	2
Fenerbahce	2	Altay	2

BAYERN SUFFER REVERSAL IN BUNDESLIGA

Two first half goals from Swede, Jorgen Pettersson last weekend, helped Borussia Moenchengladbach frustrate Bayern Munich's challenge for the German Bundesliga title with a 3-1 win.

Pettersson took his chances superbly in the 21st and 43rd minutes before Peter Wynhoff added a late goal a minute before the end.

Bayern kept its one point lead over reigning champion, Borussia Dortmund, at the top.

However Bayern, which beat Dortmund last weekend, has played one more game than its Ruhr rival. Dortmund was held to a 1-1 draw by Weder Bremen.

Both top teams face vital midweek fixtures. Dortmund play relegation threatened Cologne on Tuesday before Bayern hosts St Pauli the following day. The Bavarians will need to bounce back from the weekend's reversal.

Former Bayern midfielder, Stefan Effenberg created Moenchengladbach's first goal with a long pass from his own half to the right hand side of the penalty area.

Despite a slip, Pettersson managed to hook the ball into the left hand corner with his right foot.

Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann then put Bayern back in the hunt with one of the most spectacular goals of the season.

France's international striker Jean-Pierre Papin floated over an accurate cross from the right and Klinsmann, who had burst free of his marker, volleyed the ball into the right hand corner with his left boot.

The Bavarians fell behind again after another long ball this time from defender, Thomas Kastenmaier, which striker Martin Dahlin set up for Pettersson to hammer home.

Karsiyaka	0	Galatasaray	3
Denizlispor	1	Eskisehirspor	2
Ankaragucu	0	Besiktas	1
Gaziantepspor	2	Kocaelispor	4
Vanspor	1	Bursaspor	1
Samsunspor	2	Antalyaspor	2
Trabzonspor	3	Genclerbirliigi	1

TABLE

Trabzonspor	27	21	4	2	60	18	67
Fenerbahce	27	20	5	2	56	17	65
Besiktas	27	20	3	4	63	26	63
Galatasaray	27	17	4	6	57	29	55
Kocaelispor	27	12	9	6	41	32	45
Antalyaspor	27	11	6	10	41	47	39
Bursaspor	27	8	10	9	46	37	34
Gaziantepspor	27	9	7	11	31	34	34
Samsunspor	27	9	6	12	32	34	33
Genclerbirliigi	27	7	10	10	34	41	31
Istanbulspor	27	7	9	11	40	41	30
Denizlispor	27	7	8	12	30	41	2



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



RESCUE PLAN FOR ROSARIO CENTRAL

The Argentine communications company Multimedios, in association with former Argentine 1978 World Cup winning side coach Cesar Luis Menotti, could buy Rosario Central, one of the most illustrious clubs from the second biggest city in the country.

According to reports from Buenos Aires, Multimedios could run the administrative side of the club while Menotti could be in charge of the senior team as head coach. He previously played for the club.

The amount of money asked by Rosario Central's board of directors hasn't

been disclosed but, it is well known that the institution is losing around \$US100,000 a month, and the total deficit, so far could be up to six million dollars.

Rosario Central was the winner of the last Conmebol Cup in its first attempt, the Argentines lost the first final, 4-0, against Atletico Mineiro from Brazil, but in the return game, played in Rosario, they beat the Brazilians by the same margin. The match had to be decided by a penalty shoot out, and Rosario won 4-3.

Founded on December 24, 1889, under the original name of Central Argentine Railway Cricket Club,

Rosario Central is the third oldest club not only in Argentina but in South American football.

Central is the cradle of brilliant Argentine footballers, such as Juan Eduardo Hohberg and Mario Kempes. Hohberg, an outstanding attacking midfielder, played for Uruguayan giant Penarol, winning several national championships.

Later he took out Uruguayan citizenship and played for Uruguay in the 1954 World Cup.

Many great footballers have sprung from Rosario Central, but perhaps the one most closely identified with the club is Mario Alberto Kempes. The great striker was one of the stars of the 1978 Argentine World Cup winning team, and the highest scorer of the tournament.

In the last few years two great sportmen, two symbolic men, have been part of Rosario Central's history. Omar Alberto Palma, the current captain, and almost 38 years old, made his debut in first division in 1979. Since then he has been an integral part of this great club.

Angel Tulio Zof, an old master in the Tele Santana style, has guided the club seven times as coach. Zof is



Cesar Luis Menotti: Could be back at Central as coach.

a very modest man, with a paternal attitude towards his players and a marked tendency to enforce an offensive and showy game.

Rosario Central has won four Argentine championships, in 1971, 1973, 1980 and 1986-87, and

its rivalry with neighbours Newell's Old Boys is well documented.

Now he (Menotti) may return to the club as a co-owner and coach. A very big challenge for one of the best coaches Argentina has ever produced.

ROMARIO FIRES HOME FIVE

Romario produced one of his best performances since joining Flamengo, scoring five goals in a 6-2 win over Olaria in the Rio de Janeiro championship.

Romario finally bore some resemblance to the player who inspired Brazil to its World Cup triumph in the United States in 1994. Two of his five goals, admittedly scored against modest opposition, were from penalties.

The former Barcelona player's form has suffered from an assortment of off-field problems since Flamengo signed him at the start of last year and he has not played for Brazil since the move.

It was Flamengo's fourth-straight win in the competition, although it is yet to face any of the other top sides.

Botafogo, one of its main rivals, also humiliated a humble opponent as it thrashed bottom-of-the-table Barreira 7-1 despite resting top scorer Tulio.

The matches played in the Sao Paulo championship at the weekend were academic as Palmeiras and Portuguesa had already guaranteed the top two spots in the first stage, which provide places in the final play-off.

Palmeiras, which topped the first stage with a remarkable record of 14 wins and one draw in 15 matches, beat XV de Jau 4-0. It had won its previous matches 8-0, 4-1, 6-0 and 6-0 and finished with 61 goals, an average of better than four a game.

Tulio apologises for cheeky goal

Brazil's top soccer goalscorer Tulio has apologised to Chilean authorities for the cheeky back-heeled goal he scored against Santiago club Universidad Catolica last week.

Tulio, who scored 50 goals in official competition for his club Botafogo last year, sent a fax to the club and the Chilean federation explaining he did not intend to offend anyone during the South American Libertadores Cup game, officials said.

"I had no intention of humiliating anyone. My mind was on the spectacle, on the show," he said in the fax.

"I was alone, the game had been decided and I had all the time in the world to score. It was not a provocation."

Tulio found himself with an empty-net at his mercy as the ball came to him in the last minute of the first round, group four game in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday.

Botafogo was already 3-1 ahead and instead of just tapping the ball in, Tulio stopped it, flicked it up into the air and then backheeled it into the goal to complete a 4-1 win.

Paraguay hosts

Paraguay will be the venue of the seventh U/17 South American Nations Championship. This competition is a preliminary for the U/17 World Cup to be held in Egypt in September 1997.

The dates for the tournament have yet to be set.

Meanwhile, Chile will host the South American U/20 Championship, also a preliminary tournament for the 1997 World Cup to be held in Malaysia from June 21 to July 5, 1997.

The first three in each competition will qualify for their respective World Cups.

"PLATINI" SANCHEZ AWARDED

Erwin "Platini" Sanchez, a great personality in Bolivian football, now playing in the Portuguese first division, has been awarded the annual "Major Prize", presented to the country's best player.

Sanchez, a product of the famous Tahuichi Academy, follows previous winners Miguel Rimba in 1992, Alvaro Pena in 1993, and Marco Etcheverry in 1994.

Caniggia in sparkling form

Striker Claudio Caniggia scored his fourth goal in as many games to spark Boca Juniors to a 2-1 win over Ferro Carril Oeste in the Argentine championship.

Caniggia, who is pushing for a return to the Argentine national team with some excellent form, struck in the 12th minute of the match against Ferro Carril Oeste.

It was Ferro Carril Oeste's first loss in the tournament.

Cristian Gonzalez put Diego Maradona's side further ahead before halftime, with Facundo

Sava pulling one back in the 47th minute to make Boca suffer in the second half.

Boca, where Maradona has been reunited with Argentina's former World Cup coach Carlos Bilardo, is level on points at the top of the Clausura championship with surprise teams Lanus and Deportivo Espanol.

Bilardo and Maradona, coach and captain when Argentina won the 1986 World Cup, fell out after the 1990 World Cup but have agreed to bury their differences in an attempt to restore Boca as a power.

Lanus beat Newell's Old Boys 4-1 while Deportivo Espanol beat 1994-95 Clausura champions San Lorenzo 2-0.

Veteran Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli scored his fourth goal of the tournament to help River Plate to a 2-1 win over Banfield.

Ariel Ortega, one of the country's brightest prospects, scored River's second.

The Clausura championship, in which the teams play each other once, is the second tournament of the Argentine soccer season.

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

America/Sao Jose.....2	Rio Branco.....1
Ferroviaria.....1	Juventus.....1
Guarani.....0	Aracatuba.....1
Mogi Mirim.....1	Portuguesa.....1
Novorizontino.....0	Sao Paulo.....2
Palmeiras.....4	XV de Jau.....0
Santos.....5	Botafogo/Riberao P...1

TABLE

Palmeiras	15	14	1	0	61	8	43
Portuguesa	15	11	3	1	33	13	36
Mogi Mirim	15	10	2	3	20	13	32
Corinthians	15	8	4	3	37	17	28
Sao Paulo	15	7	4	4	26	21	2
Uniao Sao Joao	15	6	5	4	25	19	23
America	15	6	3	6	23	30	21
Santos	15	6	2	7	24	27	20
Aracatuba	15	5	3	7	15	24	18
Rio Branco	15	5	2	8	20	24	17
Juventus	15	4	3	8	12	22	15
Novorizontino	15	3	6	6	17	27	15
XV de Jau	15	3	3	9	17	33	12
Botafogo	15	2	3	10	20	39	12
Guarani	15	2	3	10	10	28	9
Ferroviaria	15	1	5	9	13	28	7

Note: top two teams in the first stage and top two in the second stage qualify for the final stage. Teams play each other once in each stage. If the same team wins the first and second stage, they became champions automatically. If teams are level on points, positions are decided by the number of games won. Palmeiras and Portuguesa qualify for the final stage.

RIO DE JANEIRO

America/Rio de Janeiro0	Madureira.....0
Americano.....1	Fluminense.....0
Botafogo/Rio de Janeiro7	Barreira.....1
Olaria.....2	Flamengo.....6
Volta Redonda.....0	Bangu.....0

TABLE

Flamengo	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Fluminense	5	4	0	1	12	4	12
Botafogo	5	3	2	0	15	7	11
America	5	2	2	1	6	4	10
Vasco da Gama	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
America	5	2	2	1	6	4	10
Vasco da Gama	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Americano	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Bangu	5	1	3	1	9	7	6
Itaperuna	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Madureira	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Volta Redonda	5	0	2	3	3	9	2
Olaria	5	0	1	4	6	20	1
Barreira	5	0	0	5	4	18	0

Note: winners of the first stage, winners of the second stage and the team with the most points over the two stages combined qualify for the final play-offs.

ARGENTINE CLAUSURA CHAMPIONSHIP

Ferro Carril Oeste.....1	Boca Juniors.....2
Gimnasia y E. Jujuy.....2	Argentinos Juniors.....1
Huracan.....3	Colon.....2
Lanus.....4	Newell's Old Boys.....1
Platense.....2	Gimnasia y E. Plata.....3
Racing Club.....1	Velez Sarsfield.....1
River Plate.....2	Banfield.....1
Estudiantes.....2	Belgrano.....1

TABLE

Boca Juniors	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Lanus	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Deportivo Espanol	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
G. Esgrima Jujuy	4	3	0	1	6	6	9
Ferro Carril Oeste	4	1	2	1	5	4	8
Racing Club	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Velez Sarsfield	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
G. Esgrima La Plata	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Estudiantes	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
River Plate	4	2	0	2	8	7	6
Rosario Central	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Huracan	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Banfield	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Platense	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Colon	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
San Lorenzo	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
Independiente	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
Belgrano	4	0	2	1	4	8	2
Newell's Old Boys	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Argentinos Juniors	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

Note: the Clausura is the second of two championships in the 1995/6 season. The teams play each other once in each and there is no overall champion.



News From Around The GL

BE

NANTES LOSE UEFA APPEAL

The European Football Union (UEFA) has turned down an appeal by French champion Nantes to have a five-game suspension, imposed last week on winger Reynald Pedros, lifted.

The decision is a blow to Nantes' European Cup hopes as he missed their semi final against Italian champions Juventus.

Pedros, who was sent off for kicking a Moscow Spartak player during the first leg of their European Cup quarterfinal, will also miss the final should Nantes advance. The suspension will extend into next season.

UEFA also announced that the appeal board had decided to reduce Barcelona defender Miguel Angel Nadal's three-game suspension to a single game.

SPARTAK CONFUSION ERASED

Russian premier league champions Spartak-Alania Vladikavkaz has changed its formal title to Alania Vladikavkaz, a leading official said last week.

Nikita Simonyan, first deputy chairman of the Russian league, said the name had been officially changed last Friday to adopt the traditional name of the North Ossetia region which includes Vladikavkaz and to avoid confusion with Spartak Moscow.

DYNAMO BANNED FROM HOME

Dynamo Moscow has been banned from playing at its home stadium for three matches following an incident last month in



Tomas Ravelli: Faces a further two weeks off the field as the Swedish season is delayed.

which a referee was reportedly beaten unconscious.

Nikolai Tolstykh, the president of the Russian Premier League club, was also barred from official seating areas in the stadium until the end of the season in November.

The sanctions were imposed by the Russian Football Union after considering the incident at a match between Dynamo Moscow, who reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winner's Cup this season, and Spartak Vladikavkaz on March 24.

The Sports Express daily reported last week that referee Yuri Chebotaryov was beaten and knocked

out by an unidentified person in a dressing room, after awarding Spartak a controversial penalty which earned them a 1-1 draw.

Boris Bobkov, secretary of the Russian professional football league, confirmed the team would play three home matches at another stadium in Moscow.

NIGERIA'S COACH RESIGNS

Nigeria have parted company with national manager Jo Bonfrere in acrimonious circumstances, officials said.

Nigerian Football Federation secretary Sani Toro said Bonfrere had left Lagos for his native

Netherlands last week without informing the Federation.

Toro said Bonfrere left a letter complaining of "indecent treatment and interference in his job."

"We are unhappy with Bonfrere for leaving the country without permission," Toro said.

In the letter, Bonfrere said he would not return to Nigeria until there was a positive response from the Federation to his complaints.

Nigeria have qualified for the Olympic Games in Atlanta later this year and Bonfrere had been expected to help to prepare the Olympic team, Toro said.

Bonfrere was disappointed when Nigeria withdrew from the African Nations' Cup in South Africa earlier this year, citing security fears. The move deprived him of his first

chance to lead the team out as manager.

The Dutchman was named Nigeria's manager last August, replacing Brazilian Carlos Alberto Torres who had been appointed the previous month but did not resume his duties after going on a two-week holiday.

JAMAICA HAVE NARROW AWAY WIN

Jamaica, the world's most improved national team last year, began its bid for a debut World Cup finals appearance with a 1-0 win away to cash-strapped Surinam in a qualifier.

Striker Theodore Withmore scored the only goal of the CONCACAF Caribbean zone second round, first leg match. Surinam could not afford to fly its best players in from the Netherlands for the game.

In other games, the Dominican Republic, where soccer plays second fiddle to baseball, and Dominica, which has a population of only 70,000, completed aggregate victories in their first-round ties.

Jamaica, the only serious contender for a World Cup place among the six participants, dominated its game and was only denied a bigger lead to take home for the second leg thanks to some excellent goalkeeping by Rodney Aldenstem.

Coached by Brazilian Rene Simoes, Jamaica was elected the world's most improved side by soccer's governing body FIFA last year after jumping 59 places in the rankings.

Surinam, which has produced several international-class players only for them

to choose to play for the Netherlands, had to rely on home-based athletes.

Its top players are with Dutch second division sides. Surinam's situation is typical of the Caribbean zone, which is far from the glamour associated with the World Cup and where most players take part purely for enjoyment.

But Surinam coach Fritz Burberthard still suffered the same fate as his more illustrious counterparts when the home crowd of around 5,000 jeered him for leaving star striker Dennis Bynoe on the substitutes' bench. Burberthard said Bynoe was too individualistic.

In the first round, second leg matches, the Dominican Republic beat World Cup debutant Aruba 3-1 away for a 6-3 aggregate win in a match where not a single player was

booked. Dominica, also taking part for the first time, won 3-1 away to relative stalwart Antigua, for whom cricketer Viv Richards once played in the 1978 World Cup qualifiers.

The result gave Dominica a 6-4 aggregate win.

BIG FREEZE DELAYS SEASON

The Swedish Soccer Federation, faced with one of the longest and coldest winters for years, has postponed the start of the new season by two weeks until April 21.

The Swedish season traditionally runs throughout the European summer because pitches become unplayable by November.

Only two first division teams said their grounds were fit to stage scheduled matches last weekend.

Many are still covered in deep snow or deeply frozen after about five months of continuous sub-zero temperatures.



Joe Bonfrere: Nigeria's Dutch coach left in acrimonious circumstances.

How the Scottish media react to soccer

BY ROY HAY
REPORTING FROM SCOTLAND

I know it is a bit incestuous to write about the media's reactions to soccer matches, but I have been intrigued to see how the Scottish lot in particular have responded to recent performances at national and club level.

There is a basically pessimistic and critical strain in the national character, which occasionally gets swept aside by bouts of hysteria and optimism.

Australians are familiar with the 'tall Poppy' syndrome, and the Scots love nothing more than puncturing any inflated ideas on the part of their heroes.

Yet I was taken aback to see the cool response to the victory of the Scottish Under 21 team over a very good Hungarian team in Edinburgh last month.

The Scots were a goal down from the away leg and lost another early in the first half, but kept their composure, shape and style of play and fought back to win by three goals to one on the night and four-three on aggregate.

It took a brilliant save by a very fine keeper, Derek Stillie of Aberdeen to secure the victory in the last few minutes, but the result was thoroughly deserved and the manner of its achievement worth analysing more closely.

The press, radio and TV praised the fighting spirit of the young lads, but implied, even if they did not state it openly, that it was only the youth team and that they were not under the same pressure of expectation as the seniors.

A few thought that Scotland might now go all the way and win this tournament in Spain, where the semi-

finals and final will be played shortly.

The team manager Tommy Craig, admitted he did not know where goals were coming from in the match. I was taken aback as the lads finished with five forwards, three midfielders and two at the back, which is the way teams used to play when I was a boy. Craig said that since they had used 40 players in the qualifying competition, no country in the world could have that number of players ready for the senior team at that age.

As a dose of realism this is all very well, but what impressed me was the way these youngsters set about retrieving an adverse situation by skill and perseverance and the retention of the qualities for which they had been selected.

They did not go heaving high balls into the goal area as most British teams tend to do when they go behind.

They did what Ajax does and built from the back, taking time before launching a new attack to ensure that everyone was in position before they set off at high speed to execute the manoeuvre.

They did not let the ripple of annoyance from the fans as they made these adjustments get to them or upset their rhythm. It was to me one of the most mature performances I have seen at any level.

Indeed after watching the masters, Ajax struggle and go a goal down at home to Panathinaikos in the European Champions League semi-final, I am more convinced that what I saw in Edinburgh was an omen of a much brighter future for Scottish soccer than has been appreciated in this part of the world.

Another striking feature was the flexibility of the Scots, many capable of

a variety of roles.

Christian Dailly of Dundee United started deep in central defence, and spent nearly an hour in an attacking role later in the game. Stuart Gray of Celtic began at left back, but more than once popped up in the inside-right channel.

Simon Donnelly of Celtic scored a goal, and figured in midfield and down the flanks.

This is not quite the 'total football' of the old Dutch team of Johan Cruyff, Neeskens, and Ruud Krol of the 1970s but it is close to it.

I got the feeling that the young Scots were educating their watchers in the media, but I am not sure that the latter were paying attention.

Next week, I'd like to have a retrospective look at the reactions to Scotland's senior game against Australia.

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PART 1

The game of football that we love so much is known throughout the continents as "the world game", and often thought of as a modern sport.

Though Association Football, the style we watch with a passion these days, is little more than 100 years old, the origins can be traced back many, many years.

Indeed, you can find mention of it in chronicles before the time of Jesus Christ and even before some civilisations were born and vanished with only the relic remains for us to ponder on today.

Mostly in this brief account we'll concentrate on football in the UK — this is after all, a UK section is it not — but with reference to other cultures dotted throughout. The whole story of football is diverse and penned many times over in publications from every part of the globe and much in this short account will be missed or overshadowed but hopefully, will give you something to think about.

Association Football is the most watched and played team sport (albeit the real participation sport is finishing believe it or not) but what gives it that magical quality?

What is it that makes millions of people alter their lives and schedules to such an extent and just what is it that evokes so much passion in a person who is only watching?

(In this, we make no claims to it being "the whole truth" as they say because speculation and interpretation are open to scrutiny but I hope you enjoy the read, be lucky).

Many eminently better qualified people have tried to answer these questions but to each and every individual, there is a different answer. The only constant is the bond that ties them to 40,000 other nameless souls following a team, a side that each and every one plays for from the sidelines and one

that can ultimately unite or divide a community on the basis of a red, white or blue shirt. Desmond Morris, I believe, once wrote about the football fan being a throwback to our caveman days where gestures were used as a form of antagonism, a common tribe united by 11 men and mention of the similarities between the days of throwing the Christians to the Lions of ancient Rome.

This could well be true as in the old days of the much lamented "Terracing", it could well be conceived that the supporters were actually baying for blood, the meeting of two tribes calling for the bravado and bluff and then we had the Neanderthal overtones of these gesticulations etc. Astute?

Maybe but if we didn't have the game, would not these actions be directed at some other sporting arena?

Again doubtful. There isn't a sport today that creates an atmosphere such as this and billions of supporters cannot ALL be wrong can they.

As often appears the case, it would seem that the far

Where did it start? Some variations

eastern countries, China in particular, are where the earliest accounts of (a type of) football are found.

Not in the present day format of course but the vaguest of references to the game that would dominate the world.

Whatever your feelings about the game, it's almost to kick something, be it a stone or leaves or the cat on a bad Saturday afternoon!

The kicking of a "round object" would be ideal as it can be directed with greater accuracy and kicked further than objects of any other shape although kicking instead of "the use of the hands" as the main means of propulsion is infinitely more skilful. It is from these humble beginnings, the game of football evolved into what it is today.

CHINA AND JAPAN

References can be found during the time of the Han dynasty, which ruled China for about 200 years BC. On the Emperors birthday, two elongated bamboo poles were erected with silk stretched between.

These were decorated with gaily coloured ribbons (shades of AFL here?) as a form of religious observance (religion has played a great part over the years).

A circular hole was cut in the middle of the cloth and participants attempted to kick a spherical object through it (shades of Blacktown City with their

Rebel promotion at home games?)

The game obviously called for great skill and the rewards for the successful players were 'fruit and fine wines' while the losers were subjected to vigorous taunting (some things never change except substitute large wads of cash for fruit etc).

The game was often referred to as Tsu Chu which has a literal meaning of 'kick-ball'.

However, there was a contrasting style to this game whereby a player was allowed to be "charged" by another and had to outwit his opponent by "dribbling" the ball without using his hands.

In Japan the game became even more synonymous with the sport today. There you would find eight players who passed the ball around a square pitch. In each corner of the square was positioned a tree of a different species: a Cherry, Maple, Willow and Pine.

The players were thereby performing the ancient religious ritual known as Kemari. The four trees held special religious meaning to the Japanese (who's culture was greatly influenced by the Chinese at the time).

Once again we see religion running close in hand with sport but Asia is not the only area that this can be acclaimed.

ANCIENT GREECE

Dating back in early Greek history, the

philosopher Homer wrote accounts of ball games being played at that time as "a tremendous part of Greek culture."

However, the Greeks believed that the mind, body and soul were combined as one and the Pythian games — in honour of the god Apollo — were not only about sporting prowess. Classes such as flute playing were an integral part of the proceedings too. Probably the earliest — and one of the vaguest — records of perhaps a football match are penned by a comedy writer Antiphanes, who in one play comments:

"Catching the ball, the player delights to pass it to one of his own side. At the same time he avoids one player and repels another. To a third he shouts encouragement in a strident voice. "Pass him. Down, Up, A short one. Pass it back. Get Back."

An ambiguous narration maybe, a reference to some form of rugby possibly? That was all that was written and no indication as to whether the ball was "kicked or thrown".

It was considered, we know, a great art to be able to bounce a spherical ball from one thigh to another with the hands held formerly behind the back.

A "relief" found in Greece and dating back to 400BC depicts just this action. The game spoken of by Antiphanes, we believe, was called "Pheninda", with a meaning approximated as "to play the imposter" or to "dummy".

A major part of any sport is to outwit the opponent and the name is obviously a reference to just that but it's doubtful we'll ever really know the true answer and the implications are there for your own interpretation.

Of course, interpretation of ancient cultures will always be guess work, they can be nothing else, but having said this, hieroglyphics on the walls of Pyramids, cave paintings etc, have all depicted some form of sport involving spherical objects.

This could be interpreted as "a form of sport" but in the case of cave paintings, it could well be two tribes having a battle with boulders being tastefully thrown toward the rampaging hordes (shades of 70s English football).

As with most forms of statistics and dates, enough "evidence" can usually be found to substantiate most

claims and it's for the reader, viewer, supporter to determine.

An example of this in a 14th century "misericord" at Gloucester Cathedral in England.

Two men are depicted playing with a ball but are they playing football, rugby or an early form of basketball?

Again, interpretation is the key word here.

UK videos direct to you

Before we embark on our trip tracing the origins of football, here is the latest news of videos direct from the UK. All prices include AIRMAIL postage and each item costs \$35 each:

- Arsenal 142 great goals
- Aston Villa 92/93 season
- Battle of Britain (Rangers v Leeds)
- Bobby Moore Story
- Cloughie — Brian Clough
- Don Revie Story
- Eusebio — Living Legend
- Everton golden goals
- Everton Great FA Cup Goals
- FA Cup Matches
- 1953 Blackpool v Bolton Wanderers
- 1961 Spurs v Leicester City
- 1966 Everton v Sheff Wed
- 1970 Chelsea v Leeds
- 1970 Chelsea v Leeds Replay
- 1971 Arsenal v Liverpool
- 1972 Arsenal v Leeds
- 1973 Sunderland v Leeds
- 1974 Liverpool v Newcastle
- 1975 West Ham v Fulham
- 1976 Southampton v Man Utd
- 1977 Man Utd v Liverpool
- 1978 Ipswich Town v Arsenal
- 1979 Arsenal v Man Utd
- 1980 West Ham v Arsenal
- 1981 Spurs v Man City (inc. replay)
- 1982 Spurs v QPR (inc. replay)
- 1983 Man Utd v Brighton (inc. replay)
- 1984 Everton v Watford
- 1986 Liverpool v Everton
- 1987 Coventry v Spurs
- 1988 Wimbledon v Liverpool
- Gary Lineker's 48 goals for England
- Giant Killer — FA Cup upsets
- Greatest ever Newcastle team
- Ireland — Road to America
- Leeds Utd 180 goals
- Man City 200 great goals
- Man City 1988/89 season
- Man Utd Great FA Cup victories Vol. 1
- Man Utd Golden Goals
- Man Utd 3 Liverpool 1
- Mark Hateley
- Newcastle 92/93 season
- Newcastle Great FA Cup victories
- Newcastle Golden Goals
- Peter Shilton story
- Rangers history in Scottish Cup
- Scotland 92 Euro championships
- Souness
- Stanley Matthews Documentary
- Terry Venables story
- Spurs Golden Goals
- 1977 Euro Cup Final Liverpool v Borussia M
- (New release)

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The passion of the game as the FA Cup winners travel in an open top bus past their adoring fans.

Gullit wants Chelsea to achieve more

Ruud Gullit wants to help Chelsea become a major force in English football.

"Wembley can wait - there are bigger goals to achieve," the Dutchman said of the recent FA Cup semi-final 1-2 loss to Manchester United.

"Just one match at Wembley is not so important to me as seeing this Chelsea team develop and take shape in the way we want.

"I'm disappointed we got so close and didn't make it to Wembley but playing in the FA Cup final was not a



particular goal of mine. I have sympathy for the players, but you can't afford to have just one goal to achieve.

"I said this even before the semi-final and I feel no

differently now. I'm looking to achieve much more with Chelsea and I'm happy with the way we are going.

"There can be too much attention on one match and it can affect your overall aim. That was the case against Manchester United and we lost because of two points - injuries and the fact that we created two goals for them that they didn't create themselves.

"It was a pity but we will be better for the experience. Maybe we will be a little more cynical in the future when we are in the lead."

Ticket scam incurs severe punishments

The Football Association has announced the most severe penalties they have ever imposed on people who sold football tickets at inflated prices.

They released a list of 36 people including officials, fans and players from lower division clubs whose 1995 Cup final tickets for the Manchester United-Everton match were sold for up to 35 times their face value.

They have been banned from receiving FA Cup final tickets for up to 20 years.

One \$A33.27 ticket was sold for what is believed to be a record sum of \$A1,252. A \$A58 seat fetched \$A880.

Last year's FA Cup final was the first at which new laws existed to combat the touts. The British Justice ministry has yet to release all the figures of tickets and people involved. Fines of up to about \$A10,000 can be imposed.

The F.A. said they were still investigating several other cases and will be running their own undercover operation this year to find the source of tickets that end up on the black market.

Premier League Team PROFILES MANCHESTER CITY

BY STUART JONES

Eike Immel - G - German keeper who has really made his mark at City this season.

Martyn Margetson - G - Born West Neath 1971. Trainee at Man. City and has played 6 games. Had loan spells at Bristol Rovers, Bolton and Luton.

Michael Frontzock - D - Came from Borussia Monchengladback to Manchester City for \$A750,000.

Kit Symons - D - Born Basingstoke 1971. Trainee at Portsmouth, he was a Wales international player when he transferred to Manchester City.

Keith Curle - D - Born Bristol 1963. Played for Bristol Rovers then Torquay before moving back to Bristol this time playing for City. Curle then moved to Reading before joining the Crazy Gang at Wimbledon. Then moved to Manchester City, England international.

Richard Edgill - D - Born Oldham 1974. Trainee at City, now playing as a first team regular.

Giuseppe Mazzarelli - M - Born Switzerland. Left FC Zurich for City and has until seasons end to prove himself at Maine Road.

Scott Hiley - M - Born Plymouth 1968. Was a trainee and played first team football at Exeter (some under Alan Ball) before moving to Birmingham. Has recently moved to Manchester City.

Steve Lomas - M - Born Hanover 1974. Has only played for Manchester City.

Ian Brightwell - M - Born Lutterworth 1968. Left Congleton Town for Manchester City. Has played over 240 games in the league.

Georgi Kinkladze - M/F - Georgian international player who left Dinamo Tbilisi for Manchester City.

Nicky Summerbee - F - Born Altrincham 1971. He played for Swindon but after they were relegated from Premier League he joined City.

Nigel Clough - F - Born Sunderland 1966. Played for AC Hunters before playing for Nottingham Forest over 300 times, scoring 101 league goals. Clough joined Liverpool but struggled on Merseyside and joined Man. City this season. England international under Graham Taylor.

Uwe Rosler - F - Born Attenburg 1968. Left Dynamo Dresden for Manchester City.

Niall Quinn - F - Born Dublin 1966. Won a championship medal with Arsenal but was more a reserve there before moving to Manchester City. Ireland international.

Gerry Creaney - F - Born Coatbridge 1970. Played for Celtic BC before joining Celtic. Played over 100 games for them before moving to Portsmouth and then moved to Manchester City with Paul Walsh going the other way. Scotland international.

Manager Alan Ball was an England hero in 1966 with the World Cup winning team. Played for assorted clubs including Blackpool, Everton, Arsenal and Man. City (where he played alongside current chairman Francis Lee). His managerial career has not been greatly successful but he has had spells at clubs like Exeter, Southampton and of course his current reign as manager of Manchester City.



EIKE IMMEL

RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM:	SHEFFIELD UTD	SHEFFIELD WED	SHREWSBURY
GROUND:	Bramall Lane	Hillsborough	Gay Meadow
ADDRESS:	Sheffield S2 4SU	Sheffield S6 1SW	Shrewsbury SY2 6AB
CAPACITY:	23,459	36,020	7,500
RECORD GATE:	68,287 (1936)	72,841 (1934)	18,917 (1961)
DEBUT:	1889	1899	1910
BY RAIL:	Sheffield Midland	Sheffield	Shrewsbury
COMMENTS:	The front of the ground looks enormous. Its modern facade hides a ground that still needs improvement, but not too bad for a club with no money.	Large ground that is fantastic. However I could never look at it without thinking of the tragedy that occurred at the ground. Best ground in Sheffield though.	Delightful tiny ground with a river alongside and trees all around it. Great in summer but could get cold mid winter I should think.
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5:	3	2.5	3.5
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10:	7	8	7

Rangers maintain the upper hand

Rangers kept their Scottish Cup and League double hopes burning and killed off those of arch-rival Celtic with a 2-1 FA Cup semi-final victory.

Goals from Ally McCoist and Brian Laudrup sent Rangers on their way to a May 18 final against Hearts, 2-1 winners against Aberdeen in the other semi.

An 81st-minute header by Celtic's Pierre Van Hooydonk had Rangers sweating and Simon Donnelly will rue an 87th-minute missed chance to take the tie to a replay.

It was Cup holders Celtic's first loss for 30 matches spanning six months, but once again it found Rangers too tough a nut to crack.

The two sides have met six times this season, with Rangers winning three and three being drawn.

Celtic's only hope for honours is in the title race, where it needs Rangers to lose twice to have a realistic chance of overhauling the champion. Rangers have won the last seven league titles.

McCoist broke Sunday's deadlock with his 19th goal of the season two minutes from the break, side-footing home from close range.

Laudrup made it 2-0 in the 66th minute after beating the



Simon Donnelly: His miss late in the game will haunt him for the rest of the season.

Celtic offside trap and coolly lobbing over the goalkeeper.

Celtic grabbed a lifeline

when Dutchman van Hooydonk guided home a low header, but it proved too late.

Hearts scrape into final

Striker Allan Johnston headed an injury-time winner to give Hearts a 2-1 victory over Aberdeen and put them into the Scottish FA Cup final for the first time in 10 years.

Hearts, who last won the trophy 40 years ago, took the lead in the Hampden Park semi-final with an 80th-minute goal by substitute John Robertson.

But three minutes from time Scotland striker Duncan Shearer, who also came on as a substitute, headed an equaliser for Aberdeen, who was looking to add the FA Cup to the League Cup it won earlier in the season.

Hearts, whose last trophy was the League Cup in 1962, will meet Rangers.

Aberdeen, thrashed 5-0 by Celtic in the Premier Division last Monday, had marginally the better of the first half.

Joe Miller almost broke the deadlock two minutes before the break as he weaved into the box, but although Hearts' French goalkeeper Gilles Rousset seemed to touch his shot away Aberdeen did not even get a corner.

In Premier Division action, bottom club Falkirk lost 3-2 at home to Raith Rovers while Motherwell beat Hibernian 3-0 at home in a mid-table clash.



John Robertson: Headed winner in stoppage time.

Never been malicious - Salako

Coventry's John Salako, whose scything tackle on Steve Harkness last weekend left the Liverpool defender with a broken leg, spoke of his regret over the incident.

"I had just come on as substitute," said Salako, "and I was keen to get into the action. I went for the ball but I was much too late and I caught Steve as he was coming towards me."

"I'm terribly sorry for what happened but I hope there is no animosity towards me. You have to be aggressive in this game without being malicious and I have never been that."

The incident occurred in the 59th minute, just two minutes after Salako had replaced the injured Peter Ndlovu and referee Peter Jones only gave the Coventry forward a yellow card.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans made it clear after the game he thought Salako should have been sent off.

"You get a yellow card for kicking the ball away," said Evans, "and you get a yellow card for breaking a player's leg. It doesn't



John Salako: Just came on as a sub when the incident happened.

make sense."

Coventry manager Ron Atkinson had a different view.

"I'm sorry to hear that the lad has broken his

leg, because it's a terrible thing to happen," he said. But to be fair to John, no-one has suffered more through injury than him."

Wright keen to stay at Highbury

Arsenal striker Ian Wright revealed last week he would like to finish his career at Highbury, admitting his relationship with manager Bruce Rioch was better.

"It will all be decided at the end of the season but of course there is a possibility I will stay now — a great possibility," he said.

"Everybody has been great since I said I think it might be time I went. I've had lots of letters from the fans and it is great when you hear the whole ground chanting for you as they did for me against Leeds."

"There were a lot of things said that hurt me. I thought they were very harsh and I wondered why they were being said."

"Brian Clough wrote in a paper that Bruce Rioch should get rid of me and, even now, there is a gentleman called Tony

Willis, who writes in a fanzine that is sold around Highbury that I'm a petulant, fading star and the club would be better off without me."

"I haven't changed but things have been a lot better lately between me and the boss."

"I've learned he is a genuinely nice guy who wants to talk about football all the time and, to be honest, he sometimes goes on and on. But we know each other a lot better now."

The flamboyant Wright admitted it was virtually impossible for him to enjoy the same kind of harmony with grey-suited short-back-and-sides man Rioch, son of an English army sergeant-major, as he did with former boss George Graham.

He said: "We are never going to be the same. He's made it clear he doesn't like some of the things I do."

"I get a bit lively in training and around the place and I've had to try and tone it down. But I am what I am and he is what he is. I'll probably always say and do things he doesn't much like."

"We've had our differences and he's come into a difficult situation he's probably never had before where he's finding, as Arsenal manager, that his name is in the paper every day and that people always want to know — and probably deserve to know — what's going on here."

"But we've spoken about it on an adult level and that helps us to understand each other."

Chelsea and West Ham are sure to maintain their interest in Wright until his situation is made totally clear at Highbury — he still has three years of a contract to run.

Bruce between the sticks at The Dell

Bruce Grobbelaar, preparing to defend himself in court against match-rigging charges, came back for Southampton last weekend and helped the Saints fight relegation in a 1-0 home English Premier League win over Blackburn Rovers.

The Zimbabwe international goalkeeper, who has been on the bench since a 3-1 defeat at his former club Liverpool on April 5 last year, took over from Dave Beasant — dropped after six defeats in seven games.

The closest champion Blackburn came to scoring was when former Southampton defender Jeff Kenna hit the base of 38-year-old Grobbelaar's post.

CLOUGH RECOVERING

Former Nottingham forest manager Brian Clough, 61, was recovering in hospital in Derby last weekend after treatment for a chest infection and a recurring knee

problem.

Clough, who was said by a spokesman to be "progressing well," is likely to stay in hospital for another two or three days.

Aussies lift City to win



Australians Paul Agostino (above) and David Seal scored a goal apiece to lift Bristol City to a 3-2 win over bottom side Hull in the English Second Division competition. Bristol City appeared to have the game in the bag when Agostino set up the first goal for Matt Hewlett after 54 minutes and scored the second with a near-post header 12 minutes later. Hull pulled a goal back before Seal hammered home Bristol's third goal. Seal is the club's leading scorer this season.

SOUTHGATE'S GOOD NEWS

Aston Villa central defender Gareth Southgate last week received a boost to his hopes of being fit in time for the European Championship finals.

Southgate, who made his full England debut against Bulgaria last month, suffered a knee injury in Aston Villa's FA Cup semi-final defeat by Liverpool.

But the 25-year-old player was told by a specialist he would not require surgery. And he has set his sights on playing in Villa's last match of the season at Everton.

He is also optimistic about being available for selection when England play Hungary in a friendly match on May 18.

Southgate said: "However minor any operation would have been, it would have meant my recovery taking a lot longer."

Mark Hughes banned and fined

Chelsea's abrasive striker Mark Hughes (right) was banned for two matches and fined nearly \$2,000 by the Football Association (FA) last week for accumulating 45 disciplinary points.

The Wales international, who has been booked 11 times this season, missed matches against Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge last Saturday and away to Bolton on Easter Monday.

The former Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern Munich striker said: "I can't have any

complaints about the fairness of the hearing today. I just have to accept it."

Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle, who accompanied the player to the hearing at FA headquarters in London, said: "It is about what we expected but it is a shame because we will miss Mark's experience over the next couple of matches."

"It's an important time for us because it looks as though we might have to win all our remaining games to qualify for Europe next season and Mark is a big loss."



DOUBLE FOR UNITED

Manchester United celebrated a double last week after Frenchman Eric Cantona was named Player of the Month and Alex Ferguson picked up the March managerial award.

Cantona won his prize after a string of vital goals that fired United to the top of the Premiership.

The Frenchman netted all four of United's League goals during the month, striking the winner in victories over Newcastle, Arsenal and Tottenham, and grabbing a last-gasp equaliser in the 1-1 draw at QPR.

The Frenchman's goal against Spurs at Old Trafford on March 24 was his 50th in 100 League appearances for United. Ferguson also won the manager's award in February.

United are currently seeking to become the first side ever to win the League and the Cup in the same season for a second time.

RANGERS INJURY LIST SHORTENING

Double-chasing Rangers received a boost last week with the news that inspirational captain Richard Gough and fellow defender David Robertson could return for the Scottish Cup semi-final with Old Firm rivals Celtic.

Rangers manager Walter Smith welcomed back goalkeeper Andy Goram for last Sunday's

keenly-awaited clash at Hampden Park and says the two defenders, missing through injury for several weeks, are progressing well.

The Goram news will hardly be welcomed around Celtic Park. Time and again this season, the Rangers' goalkeeper has denied Celtic with a string of superb saves.

Celtic manager Tommy Burns was moved to say after the goalless Old Firm clash on New Year's Day, "You can engrave on my tombstone 'Andy Goram broke my heart'."

Goram's heroics have been partly responsible for Rangers' unbeaten record in five games against their Glasgow rivals this season.

Harding & Bates - Chelsea double act

Millionaire Matthew Harding has become vice-chairman of FA Cup semi finalist Chelsea as chairman Ken Bates unveiled a new future which could entice Glenn Hoddle to stay on as manager.

Harding and Bates had been involved in a bitter public feud that prompted Hoddle, whose contract expires at the end of the season, to put his future at Chelsea on hold.

But both men are confident Hoddle will stay after they buried their differences and floated more than nine million shares on the stock market.

Bates said: "This has involved Matthew Harding in a further capital investment in the club on an almost unprecedented scale - his total commitment is now \$52 million."

"The prime reason for going public is to raise the substantial funds we need to make Chelsea the number one club in England."

SUB OWNS THE CLUB

Club chairman Paul Scally plans to make soccer history in the English league by coming on and playing as a substitute.

Gillingham's Paul Scally intends to play for the final 15 minutes against Scarborough in the last match of the season on May 4 as long as his English third division club has already won promotion.

Scally, 40, who stepped in to save the southern club when it faced closure last June, said his plan began as a joke after betting with several business colleagues that he would turn out in a Gillingham shirt during a promotion-winning season.

Gillingham are a point clear at the top of the division and well set for one of the three promotion places.

He said on Friday: "I am doing this for all the right reasons and am not just out for publicity. I will win more than \$19,600 from the bets and use that for the club's end-of-season tour."

Scally's playing experience so far has been limited to low-level Sunday morning matches 10 years ago.

Players cleared of drugs claims



LEE SHARPE

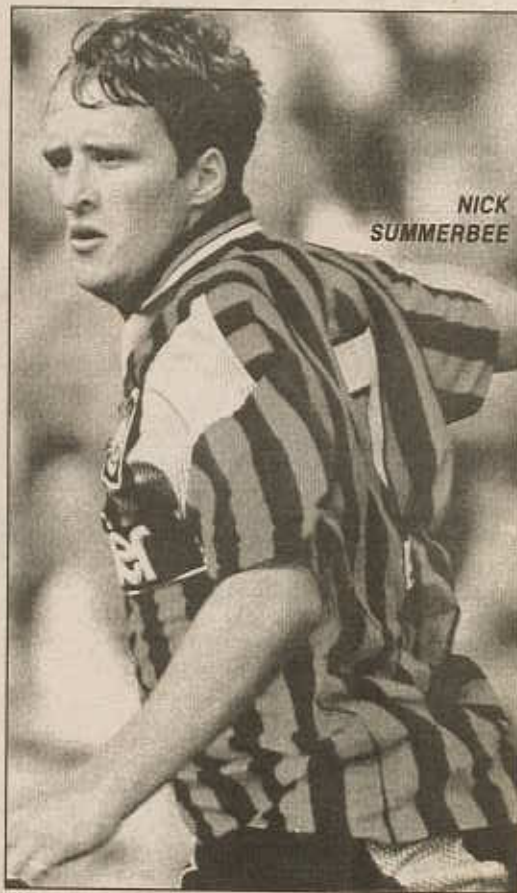
English players Lee Sharpe and Nicky Summerbee have been cleared of accusations of drug-taking, the Football Association (FA) said last week.

The FA had asked English international Sharpe's Manchester United club and Summerbee's Manchester City to investigate allegations by a British newspaper last month.

"Manchester United and Manchester City have exonerated their players Lee Sharpe and Nicky Summerbee of any involvement with drug abuse," an FA statement said.

"The FA have established that both clubs acted swiftly following newspaper allegations by making their own inquiries into the matter."

The players were reminded of their responsibilities and both gave firm assurances that they do not take prohibited substances."



NICK SUMMERBEE

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ROUND 31



FRIDAY, APRIL 12

WOLLONGONG CITY
v
BRISBANE STRIKERS
BRANDON PARK - 7:30PM



SATURDAY, APRIL 13

CANBERRA COSMOS
v
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
BRUCE STADIUM - 3:00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 14

SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
WEST ADELAIDE
BOB JANE STADIUM - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 14

ADELAIDE CITY
v
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7:30PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 14

UTS OLYMPIC
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
LEIGHARDT OVAL - 7:00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 14

SYDNEY UNITED
v
MORWELL FALCONS
SYD CROATIAN SPT CTR - 3:00PM



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